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CENTENNIAL RECORDS OF THE WOMEN OF WISCONSIN

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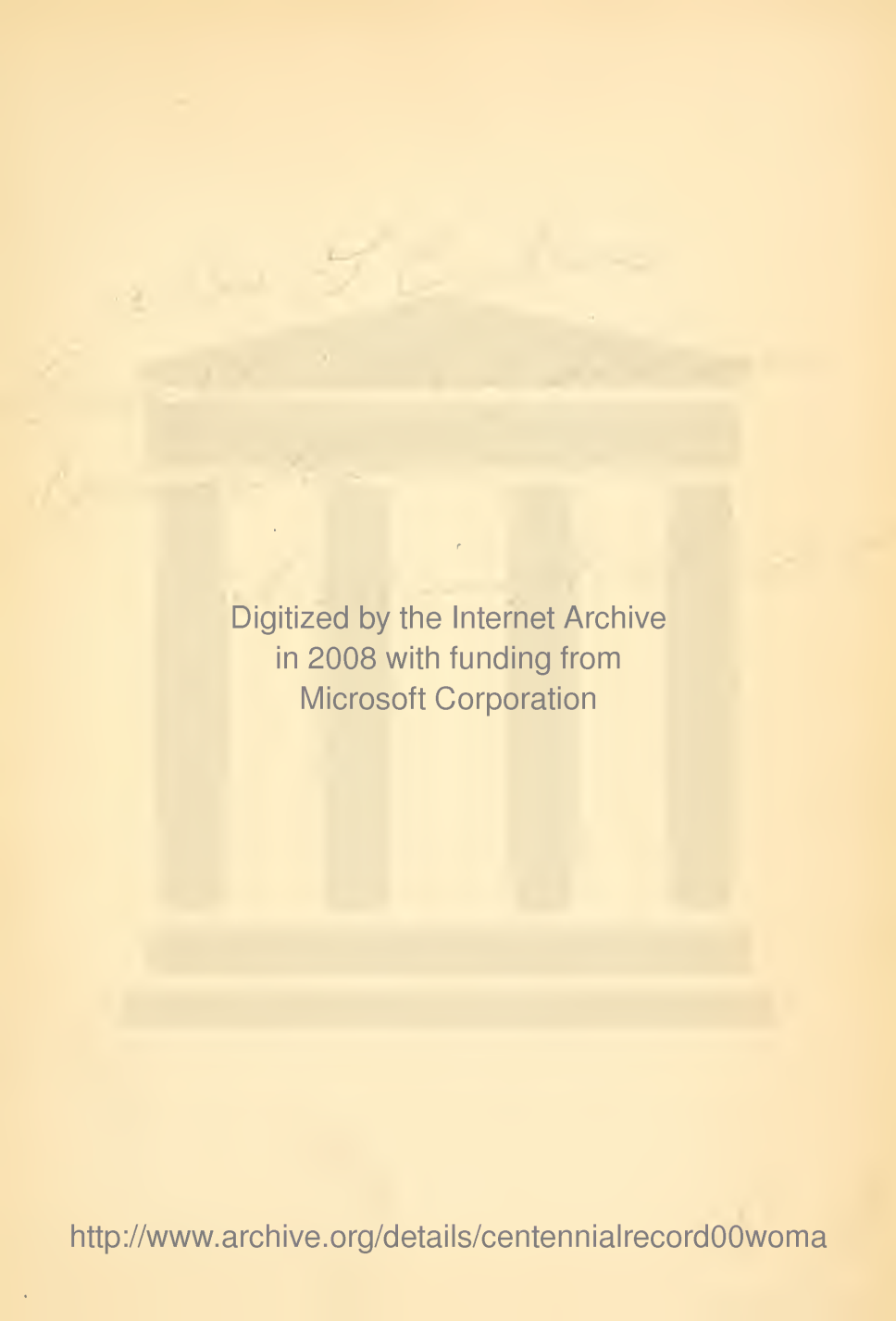
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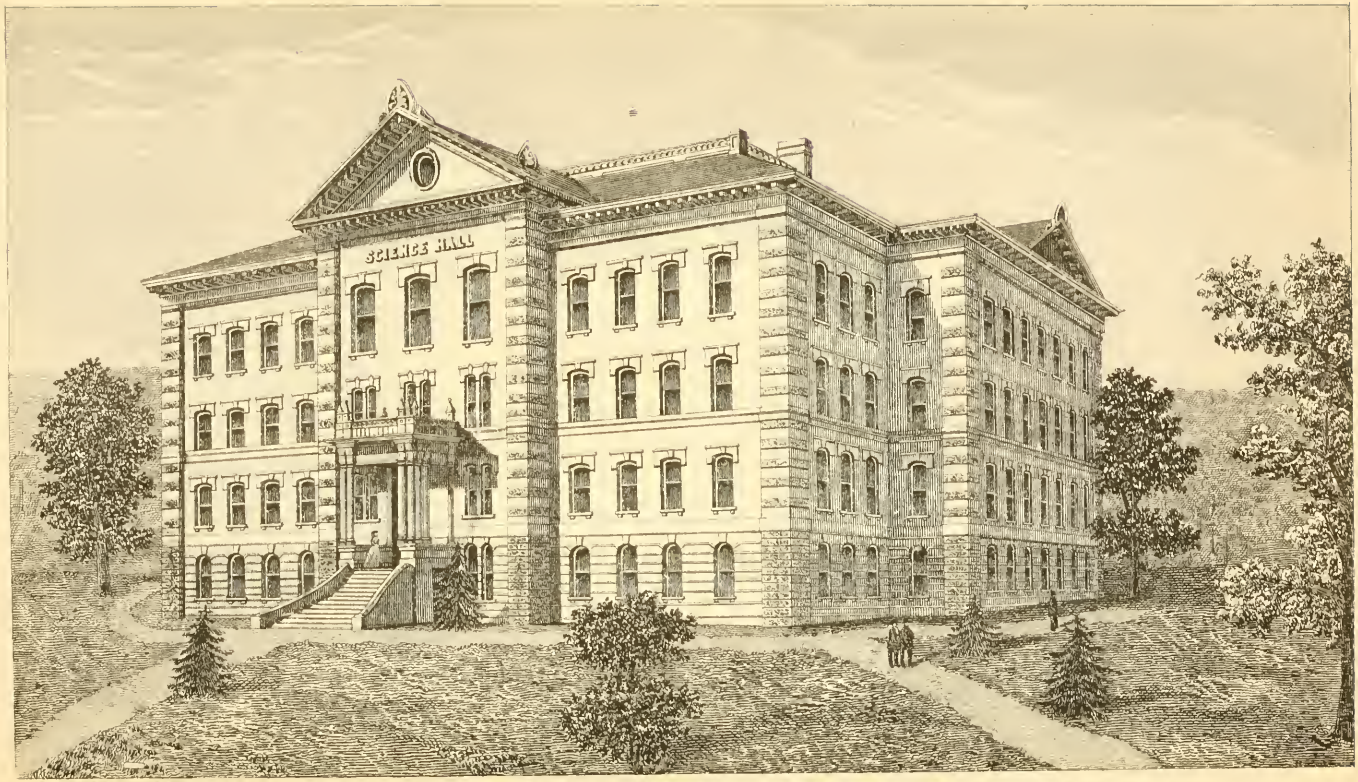


STATE UNIVERSITY, SCIENCE HALL.

CENTENNIAL RECORDS

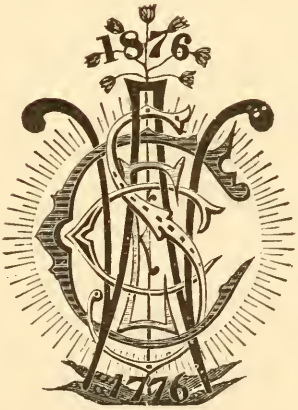
OF THE

WOMEN OF WISCONSIN.

"*WOMAN IS THE PROBLEM OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.*"
—VICTOR HUGO.

EDITING COMMITTEE:

ANNA B. BUTLER, EMMA C. BASCOM, KATHARINE F. KERR.



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INTRODUCTION.

THE following Reports concerning the philanthropies of Wisconsin Women were collected for the National volume. They are, however, deemed appropriate to accompany the annals of the latest labor of love accomplished by the women of our Commonwealth — namely, the records of Centennial organizations.

These papers, with the exception of one, were written by women.

We are aware that these pages do not contain all the names of institutions or individuals worthy of a place in them, but they are all that could be obtained in the short period allotted for the work.

In some instances, no response has been made to appeals for the data necessary for a correct report. These failures may have arisen, from the modesty which "does good by stealth and blushes to find it fame," or from not appreciating the value of the Record, which embalmed by "the art preservative of all arts," shall bear its testimony to coming centuries.

Considering the youth of our State, we are confident she is not behind her elder sisters, in noble women and sublime charities, and we are proud to add our Memorial as Wisconsin's stone in the monument this Centennial celebration is building to the honor and praise of the good and true of our sex.

A. B. B.

MADISON, WIS., *April 18, 1876.*

CENTENNIAL RECORDS

OF THE

WOMEN OF WISCONSIN.

TAYLOR ORPHAN ASYLUM.

This Institution is located three miles southwest of the city of Racine, Racine Co., Wis. It was founded by Mrs. Emeline A. Taylor, widow of Isaac Taylor, late of Racine, and in pursuance of his wishes.

The third item of Mrs. Taylor's will reads as follows:

"*Third.* I give and devise unto Mrs. C. E. Dyer, Mrs. Margaret Perine, Mrs. George Murray, Mrs. John F. Goold, Mrs. John Tapley of the county of Racine, state of Wisconsin, the sum of thirty thousand dollars, to hold in trust to erect an orphan asylum in or near the city of Racine, in the county of Racine, Wisconsin, and to support the same. Said asylum to be open for the reception of all orphan children in said county, and such other poor, neglected and destitute children as the managers, by law or their rules, may agree to receive. Said trust fund to be paid to such asylum as soon as one shall be duly incorporated and legally empowered to receive and use said fund for the purposes above specified. This bequest is made as a memorial to the memory of my late husband, Isaac Taylor, and in fulfillment of his wishes."

The thirty-eighth item of the will gave and devised all the residue and remainder of the estate of Mrs. Taylor to the Taylor Orphan Asylum.

The will also provides that the ladies named should elect, annually, four male members to act with the trustees as a board of directors.

On the 8th day of June, 1867, the trustees organized the corporation. The directors then purchased a farm of about forty acres of land, and erected an asylum building thereon, which was opened for the reception of children in July, 1872. On June 2d, 1875, the corporation had funds on interest, secured by notes and mortgages on real estate and municipal bonds, to the amount of $132,354.70.

The board is required to render an account to the circuit court at the first day of the March term in each year.

The institution is under the efficient management of Mrs. Hobson, as matron, late in charge of the Half-Orphan Asylum, of Chicago, Ill. She is assisted in her duties by Miss Amelia Piper, who is the teacher in charge of the school.

The institution provides a cheerful and comfortable schoolroom, also, a chapel in which Rev. Dr. James DeKoven, or one of the professors of Racine College, holds service every Sunday afternoon. There are, at present, forty-three children in the institution, of whom forty-one attend school. There are constantly employed six female servants in the asylum, and one farm laborer who, with the aid of the boys, cultivates the garden and farm.

It is the wish of the managers of this asylum to give the children under their care such instruction as shall make them

self-reliant and industrious; to surround them by influences which shall develop their moral character and make them useful members of society; to give them such a home that they will always remember, with gratitude and affection, the names of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor.

Mrs. Chas. E. Dyer.

Racine, *March 22, 1875.*

MILWAUKEE HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS.

The Milwaukee Home for the Friendless was organized in October, 1867, by a small band of ladies who, by experience in private charities, were convinced of the necessity of such an institution. It was intended to provide a temporary refuge for friendless and destitute women and children; to find for the former employment, and for the latter good Christian homes; to assist and encourage those who are forsaken and faltering on the way, and to throw the influence of a genuine home around all who come under its care. Its successful operation for more than eight years affords proof of its usefulness and confirms the judgment of its founders. After procuring a charter from the legislature, a house was rented on Cass street, and the institution was opened for the reception of inmates in November, 1867. The board of managers and officers were as follows:

President—Mrs. C. A. Keeler.
Vice President—Mrs. G. P. Hewitt.
Secretary—Miss M. Blanchard.
Treasurer—Mrs. John Nazro.

Managers:

Mrs. J. H. Rogers.	Mrs. J. Sercomb,	Mrs. M. Rowndy,
Mrs. C. D. Bigelow,	Mrs. H. H. Button,	Mrs. J. C. Coleman,
Mrs. N. Storrs,	Mrs. T. H. Judd,	Mrs. E. R. Peroous,
Mrs. S. D. Arnold,	Mrs. H. Chase,	Mrs. T. M. Gwynne,
Mrs. J. B. Judson,	Mrs. A. Green,	Mrs. M. P. Jewett,
Mrs. Chas. Bigelow,	Mrs. G. F. Austin,	Mrs. J. C. Spencer,
Mrs. J. H. Tweedy,	Mrs. J. G. Inbusch,	Mrs. G. B. Miner,
Mrs. W. H. Garlick,	Mrs. John Plankington,	Mrs. J. Hiles,
Mrs. J. Downer,	Mrs. A. H. Gardner.	

At the close of the first year, Mrs. Hewitt and Miss Blanchard having resigned, Mrs. J. Downer succeeded as vice president, and Mrs. W. L. Dana as secretary, and, at various times, the following ladies have been added to the board of managers:

Mrs. G. E. Collins,	Mrs. J. Magie,	Mrs. D. W. Brown.
Mrs. J. J. Tallmadge,	Mrs. W. C. Durant,	Miss E. Misner,
Mrs. E. D. Holton,	Mrs. D. W. Blanchard,	Miss Abbie Ogden,
Mrs. Lewis Blake,	Mrs. J. A. Dutcher,	Miss L. Plankington,
Mrs. A. Follansbee,	Mrs. C. Whitcomb,	Miss T. A. Greene,
Mrs. Levi Kellogg,	Mrs. Joseph Mann,	Mrs. Wm. E. Smith,
Mrs. W. G. Benedict,	Mrs. C. H. Leuthstrom,	Mrs. David Adler,
Mrs. L. Everingham,	Mrs. Edwin Hyde.	

The growth of this charity has been constant and healthful, commending itself to the public by its record of good accomplished.

Its financial affairs have been conducted on thorough business principles. It is supported by annual contributions from the

merchants and other charitable citizens, giving a regular income which has thus far prevented the necessity of fairs and other laborious entertainments.

The receipts from these subscriptions during the year ending October 1, 1875, amounted to $2,317.25. Occasional appropriations from the state legislature have given substantial and needed assistance. A house and lot on Van Buren street were purchased in 1869, to which additions have been made, although in the constant increase of applicants its accomodations are greatly overtaxed. The statistics give but a meager outline of the work. Since the organization of the Home, 2,370 inmates have been cared for, clothing in large quantities has been furnished to the needy, tickets or passes supplied to unfortunate travelers, homes provided for more than 50 children, families assisted to commence housekeeping, situations procured for servants and an infinite variety of aid extended to all forms of misery and helplessness.

There is no distinction of sect or nationality, no certificate of character is necessary, only the assurance of actual need is required to gain admission.

In April, 1873, the work was extended by the addition of the Young Woman's Home. This department was opened for the purpose of providing for those young women without homes in the city whose wages are inadequate to meet their necessary expenses. For the payment of $2.50 per week, a sum which simply covers the actual cost, they are supplied with the comforts of

a home, and are spared the trials and temptations incident to cheap boarding houses.

The office of Matron was filled for three years and a half by Mrs. M. P. Whitcomb, who was succeeded by Miss Helen Myrick, a lady who possesses rare and admirable qualification for the difficult duties of her position.

The scope of this charity widens year by year, the demands for assistance increase more rapidly than the limited means of the institution, and plans for the future greatly exceed the achievements of the past.

Mrs. William L. Dana,
Secretary.

BELOIT CHARITIES.

The Congregational Woman's Missionary Society is auxiliary to the State Society which is an auxiliary of the National Board of Foreign Missions. Mrs. M. Briggs Williams, Miss Mary Porter, Mrs. Emma Dickenson Smith, went from Beloit to North China as missionaries. "Their works do praise them." The amount raised, one dollar each member, is divided *pro rata* between foreign and home missions. Many boxes of clothing have been prepared by this society and sent to missionaries' families.

The young ladies have a separate organization. The Metho-

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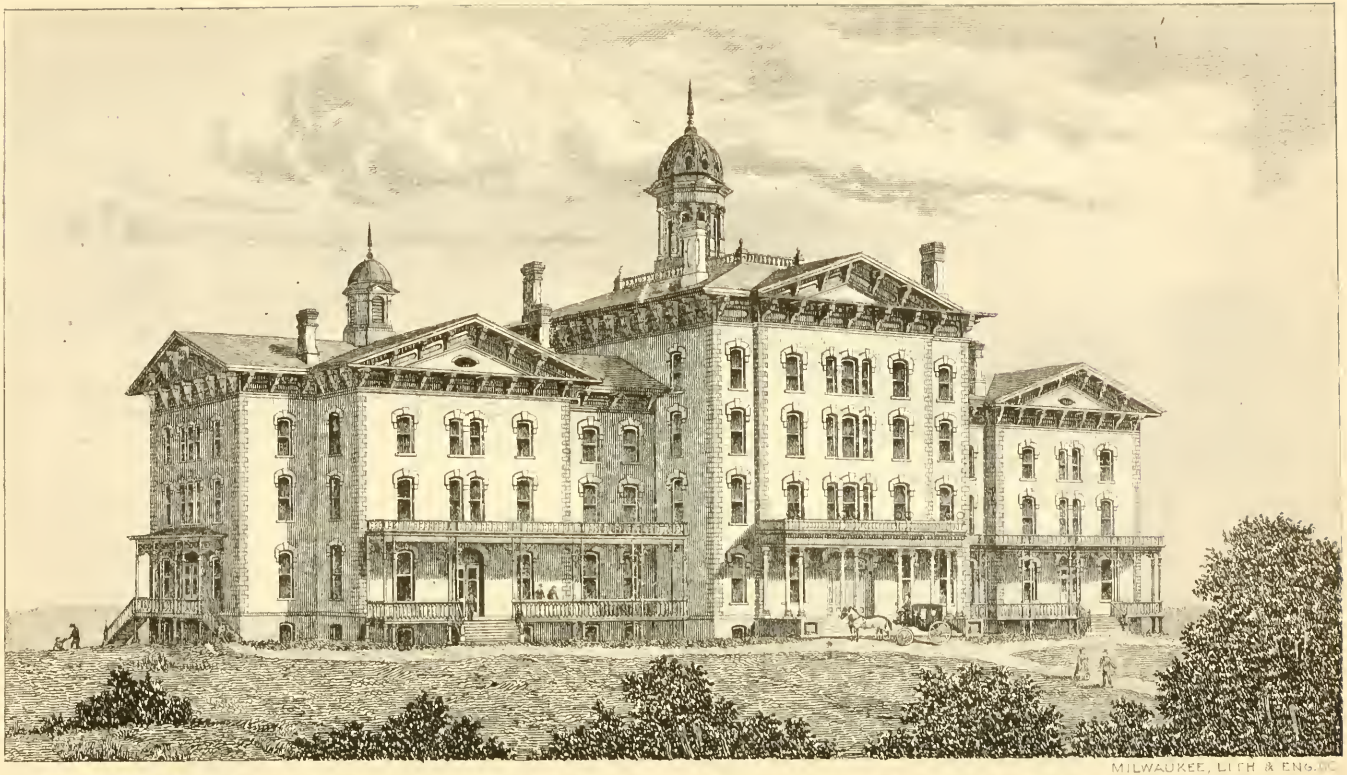

MILWAUKEE, LITH. & ENG. CO.

INSTITUTION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND, JANESVILLE.

dist, Baptist and Presbyterian churches have similar organizations.

During the late rebellion the Beloit Sanitary Aid Society was composed of these same ladies who belong to these various missionary societies, and was considered one of the most efficient in the state.

Several pupils in foreign lands are supported by the contributions of the Sabbath Schools of Beloit.

ANNA KEEP.

WISCONSIN INSTITUTION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

THIS INSTITUTION is located in the city of Janesville, and is a state charity, free to all the blind who come under its regulations.

For the past year its superintendent has been Mrs. SARAH F. C. LITTLE, who succeeded her husband in this office, which he had most honorably filled the last thirteen years of his life. Mrs. LITTLE, by reason of her coöperation and entire sympathy with her husband in the management of the work, was deemed by its board of trustees more competent to bring to successful issue the plans formed for the best interests of the institution than any other person.

The first year of Mrs. LITTLE's administration has passed, and

her qualifications for the office have stood the scrutiny of those who have in trust the supervision of the state charities. They award her a high meed of praise, and "gladly bear testimony to the character and efficiency of her work."

The institution numbers eighty-four pupils; and to those familiar with blind asylums and their internal life, it need not be explained what varied qualities of head and heart are required by the superintendent of such an establishment to give harmony and completeness to the whole.

The wisdom and decision of a legislator, the moral principle and culture of a teacher, and the tenderness of a mother, are all unitedly requisite in the head of a home for those unfortunate ones who are denied life's sweetest boon — to whom nature has given "eyes that roll in vain to find light's piercing ray, and find no dawn." Let Wisconsin women be proud of the achievements of Mrs. Sarah F. C. Little.

When appointed to this field of labor, Mrs. Little was the only woman in our whole country upon whom such an onerous task had devolved. Since then the state of New York has followed our example, and placed upon Mrs. Lord, of Batavia, the mantle of her husband, Dr. Lord, long superintendent of the blind instltution in that place. Such things demonstrate two steps of progress in the world's history: First — that executive gifts are found to be not bestowed on one sex alone, but may exist and be combined with womanly grace and feminine propriety. Secondly — that woman is, by the liberal culture of the

age, finding herself on the same intellectual platform as man — and that while she accords to him superior strength of muscle, powers of endurance, and capacity to battle with the wild forces of nature and the brute passions of men, she rejoices in a day in which, by mechanical inventions, she is relieved of much tedious and long-suffering domestic labor, and which thus equalizes her lot, giving her time for the highest development, and an opportunity to stand in her appropriate place, by creation's fiat — a help-meet for man. A. B. B.

Madison, Wis., *March 8, 1876.*

Note. — Since writing the above it has been ascertained that Mrs. L. has superintended the erection of the new building, and made herself familiar with all the workings of its steam engine, so as to be able to ascertain and direct needful repairs.

THE "CADLE HOME,"

An Asylum for orphans, for homeless and destitute persons, located at Green Bay, Wis., was organized May 1, 1872, although the Women's Society of Christ Church had worked for its establishment from 1866. It was opened in January, 1874; was named Cadle Home in memory of the earliest Protestant Missionary of this region.

Since its opening it has relieved 147 persons, of all ages, from the infant born within its walls to the aged of 90 years and older. Although under the management of the Episcopal

Church, its benefits are extended to any one destitute or homeless, irrespective of creed.

It is wholly supported by gifts of the charitable and proceeds of women's work.

In addition to the Home, a hospital building has been added, in 1875, capable of accommodating sixty or more patients, all to be maintained by woman's work. Prominent in establishing and maintaining this work have been Mrs. C. D. Robinson, Miss M. A. Smith, Mrs. E. S. Whitney, and indeed the entire board of managers have worked as for their own dearest and best object in life.

Board of Managers.

Mrs. J. S. Baker, 1st Directress.
Miss Helen Carswell, 2d Directress.
Mrs. E. S. Whitney, Treasurer.
Mrs. Dr. Ayres, Secretary.
Mrs. Dr. Cowey,
Mrs. A. G. Holmes,
Mrs. E. Tyler,
Mrs. F. P. Irwin,
Mrs. J. Whitney.

MILWAUKEE COLLEGE.

This Institution was reörganized, on a plan somewhat peculiar, in the spring of 1850, from a school founded by Mrs. L. A. Parsons two years before.

The theory was furnished by Miss C. E. Beecher, and her influence secured to the school, during the first twelve years of its existence, material funds to the value of at least $12,000.

The practical application of the theory was made under the supervision of Mrs. L. A. Parsons and Miss M. Mortimer, who, after careful examination, were happy to devote themselves to this work. The plan for the school was as follows:

1. The citizens of a large town, where a school is needed, shall organize a board of trustees, impartially representing the several religious denominations of the place; and this board shall assume the responsibility of support for four well qualified teachers. These teachers shall be nominated first by the association represented by Miss Beecher, afterwards vacancies shall be filled by the nomination of the remaining teachers; all nominations being submitted for approval to the board of trustees.

2. The four teachers shall constitute a *Faculty*, each being the head of a given department, and no one having control over the others. Questions of general interest to the school shall be settled by a vote of the faculty, one of whom, at their discretion, may be chosen to an office corresponding to that of *President* of a college.

No large boarding establishment was to be connected with the school. The plan proposed in the future, three additional departments — the *Normal*, the *Health* and *Domestic* departments.

Friends gathered to the new enterprise — Mrs. Byron, Mrs. Dr. Lapham, Mrs. A. D. Smith, now all passed to their reward, Mrs. G. P. Hewitt, Mrs. Dr. Greeves, Mrs. W. P. Flanders and others, earnest in labor and self denial. In 1851, the school

was incorporated as the "*Milwaukee Normal Institute and High School.*" In 1852, the building since occupied by the school was erected at a cost of $5,000. The plan for this, and $600, were furnished by Miss Beecher. Some funds were raised abroad because of interest excited in the plan of the school, and some were raised by scholarships issued at ruinously low prices. The school took a recess while the building was in process of erection, and during this time Miss Beecher and Miss Mortimer, in consultation with other members of the *American Woman's Educational Association*, revised the course of study for the schools, examined text books and made out more fully and clearly their system for elevating woman and educating the children of the land. Leading educators were consulted. The new course of study aimed to develop all the powers, and at the same time to fit the pupil for the life which comes after school.

Miss Mortimer was nominated by the association to the Normal Department, which, beside the proper duties belonging to this position, required her to give instruction to teachers and young ladies designing to be teachers, not members of the institution, and also to superintend the instruction in all departments. The endowment was now so far begun, that Miss Mortimer's salary was pledged by the association. On her return to Milwaukee, in the autumn of 1852, to meet the outside demand for a "Head" to the school, the teachers decided to nominate a president or principal, and Miss Mortimer was chosen. The

various nominations for the new year were confirmed by the trustees, and in October, with a full board of teachers and a goodly number of pupils, the school was reöpened in the new building. The plan of the school was carefully explained to the new teachers, and all worked in their appropriate departments of responsibility and instruction with zeal and harmony. The board of teachers at this time was as follows:

Mary Mortimer, Normal Department, and Teacher of Moral and Mental Science.

Lucy Parsons, Classification, and Teacher of History and Geography.

Amanda Loomis, Government, and Teacher of Mathematics and Natural Science.

Juliette Millard, Accounts and Records, and Teacher of English Language and Literature.

Elizabeth Warner, Primary School, and Teacher of Drawing.

During the year 166 different pupils were on the roll, and the new plan was working to the entire satisfaction of the teachers. Each was supreme in her own department, while no one was burdened with the care of all matters pertaining to the school, and questions of general interest were readily settled by a vote of the teachers. Complete prosperity was hindered by a debt upon the building, by insufficient and inferior furniture and fixtures, and by deficiency of income to meet necessary expenditures.

From these causes troublesome days came. Several teachers left from insufficient or unpaid salaries, and the college plan of departments was for a time invaded, and might have been given up entirely had it not been for aid received from the association at the east, and that some of the teachers were ready to make sacrifices for it.

In 1853, at the suggestion of the President of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Lapham, though opposed by the teachers as too pretentious, the name of the institution was changed to *Milwaukee Female College*, and about the same time, Mrs. Parsons, the founder of the school, and perhaps hitherto its most deeply interested friend, resigned her place in it, to aid in organizing a school on the same plan in another place.

The next year, a successful effort was made to improve the financial condition of the institution. The scholarships were given up, and new subscriptions were made, more than sufficient for what were deemed needed improvements. A small surplus was left in the treasury. O. H. Waldo, Esq., Dr. Lapham, Hon. W. P. Lynde and others, gentlemen and ladies, were active in this progress. A period of prosperity followed, with a full faculty of teachers, according to the plan, and a school ranging in numbers from 158 to 180.

In 1857, when the school was at its highest prosperity thus far, and had a board of teachers competent to conduct it to still better things, with their several departments carefully defined, Miss Mortimer *resigned*, and though opposed by trustees, teachers and others, left. The financial crisis of that year soon followed, and for this cause and others, for which the teachers in charge connot be held responsible, the college during the next six years was not on the whole very prosperous. The largest class that had yet completed the course of study, however, was graduated under the leading teachers of those years, Misses M.

E. and C. E. Chapin, and a tasteful and commodious dwelling for the teachers and about ten pupils, was erected on the college grounds, from funds brought by Miss Beecher towards a promised endowment.

On account of the insufficiency of the income of the school to meet its outgo, the premises were, in 1863, leased to Prof. S. S. Sherman, a gentleman of financial responsibility and of experience and reputation as a teacher. This change led to a contest with the association at the east, which held a bond from the trustees that the original plan of the institution should be adhered to. At the close of three years, this contest was settled by the resignation of Prof. Sherman, and the return of Miss Mortimer, with full permission from the Board of Trustees to restore the old plan. But the debt of the institution was now $3,000, treble what it had been when Miss Chapin left, valuable repairs had been made, and contrary to the spirit and design of the original plan, and to her wishes and convictions of what was wisest and best, it was insisted that Miss M. should take the same lease which Prof. Sherman had held.

The association, however, consented to this arrangement, and Miss M. began her work with the full intention of getting rid of this lease and placing the institution under the control of some board as soon as possible. She restored the departments of the past, and the course of study with small modification, and the school opened well.

The next year, funds were raised for improvements and addi-

tions, among them a two story addition to the college building, 50 by 25 feet, for gymnasium, studio and music rooms.

In 1868, by the active exertion of Miss Mortimer, three ladies, Mrs. W. De L. Love, Mrs. W. P. Lynde and Mrs. John Nazro were elected members of the board of trustees, and the next year the number of lady trustees was increased to five.

During the six years for which Miss M. held the lease of the college premises, other improvements were made, and the small library, sent in the early days by the association, was much increased, and the school was prosperous and gave general satisfaction.

In 1872, the lease expired and Miss Mortimer was invited to consent to its renewal for five years. She, in return, renewed arguments and entreaties before made, against leasing the college to any one, and urged the board to resume the responsible charge of it. Failing in this, she urged the ladies in the board to at least share this charge with her. They also declined and, very unwillingly, Miss M. consented to the renewal of the lease, on condition that the rent, hitherto $500 per annum, should be remitted, and that either party should be released at the close of any year by giving six months' notice. The conditions were accepted, and Miss M. and her associates went on with their work. But still failing to relieve herself of the variety of responsibilities which rested upon her, Miss Mortimer gave notice at the close of the year, that she should retire after one more year's service. She labored with the trustees to make timely arrange-

ments for the future prosperity of the school, and when, after much delay, they chose Prof. C. S. Farrar, *of Vassar College*, to be her successor, she labored faithfully to make all ready for him.

He required, and the friends of the institution felt it necessary, that a fund should be raised to pay off the old debt of $3,000 and to renovate the buildings. Miss M. was one of the most active and successful agents in securing pledges for $1,000, and in July, 1874, she left, and Prof. Farrar took charge of the institution.

This period seems to form such a crisis in the progress of the Milwaukee College as makes it fitting to gather up what has been valuable in its past, beside, the *Woman's Centennial Committee demand it.*

During the quarter of a century this institution has been struggling through many, and, often very depressing difficulties, to elevate the standard of female education, at the same time to aid in the work of educating the girls of Milwaukee and Wisconsin, it has had under its instruction, not less, it is confidently believed, than 1,500 pupils, of whom 120 completed its course of study. It has been a civilizing influence of no mean importance in this city and state.

In closing this sketch, it is desired to call attention to the features more or less peculiar and original in the work accomplished:

1. Though the men of Milwaukee, especially Hon. O. H.

Waldo, who deserves, above all others, honorable mention for thoughtful, faithful and persistent effort, did much, the enterprise has been eminently designed and carried on by and for woman.

2. It has sought to develop the broadest and best education for its pupils. Its course of study recognized the three fold nature of the human mind — scientific, æsthetic and moral, and, from the first, made earnest endeavors for a symmetrical development of all the bodily and mental powers. That some success has been attained in physical culture is evidenced in the fact that, up to the time of the close of this sketch, *only two* of its graduates, the first of whom completed their course in 1850, so far as known, had died, and for the remaining 118, the writer feels safe in claiming more than the average health of women. Many of these are now filling positions of great influence and importance to the best interests of this and other states.

3. This institution, through all its history, has maintained its unsectarian character, no religious denominations, as such, having had any control over it, yet it has been decidedly Christian. The bible, as a book of history, morals and religion, has been carefully and systematically taught, and an original course of lessons, including the history of the other principal religions of the world and closing with the moral and historical evidences of Christianity, has been given to the senior classes.

4. Careful regard has been had to the life before the pupil after leaving school. For this, even at the sacrifice of some

higher mathematics and Latin for those whose time in school was limited, a fuller and more carefully arranged course in History and Literature than was or is usual in American schools of any grade, has been taught, and the effort has been persistently made to bridge over the chasm between the sciences studied in school and their application in life. Weekly classes have been arranged for all the school, in which life, its duties, its trials, and the qualifications necessary to meet these were considered and discussed, and the dignity of labor and the obligations of all to be industrious, economical, and sincere were urged. Domestic economy as a science and art, was in some small degree taught, the tyranny of fashion was resisted, and excellence, rather than popularity or material reward, was taught.

5. Earnest efforts were made to extend the educating influence of the institution beyond its immediate pupils. For this, the mothers of these and other ladies were gathered together to consider questions pertaining to education in general, and especially to discuss questions relating to the interests of the college, classes in history and æsthetics were formed which these ladies were invited to join, and many availed themselves of the opportunity.

MILWAUKEE, *March 15, 1876.*

LOUISE MANNING HODGKINS,

Preceptress and Instructress in French and History in Lawrence University.

This lady, one of the most successful and efficient teachers which Wisconsin has ever had, was born in the town of Ipswich, Mass., August 5, 1846. Her home training was of the very best, and after a few years in the public schools, she became a pupil in the Ipswich Female Seminary, then as now under the management of Mrs. Cowles, and then as now among the prominent schools of New England. She subsequently spent some time at the seminary in Pennington, N. J., pursuing some special studies, and finally entered the Wesleyan Academy at Wilbraham, Mass. There she graduated in 1870, being one of the very best scholars in her class. In addition to the usual curriculum, she had given much extra attention to the French language, and had become proficient in music.

Immediately after her graduation she accepted the position of second lady teacher in Lawrence University. She began her labor in the fall term of 1870, giving instruction in English branches in addition to French and Botany. She early evinced remarkable aptitude and skill as an instructor by readiness of invention, the freshness imparted to whatever subject she might have in hand, and the constant enthusiasm inspired in her pupils in respect to their studies. Teaching with her is clearly a matter of agreeable choice, and not merely the necessity of having nothing to do.

After four years in this position, she was, in 1874, on the resignation of Miss Evans, elected Preceptress. With a somewhat higher range of work and large responsibilities in the way of government, she gave evidence of increasing competence and skill. Few teachers have ever been connected with the institution who have made a reputation so brilliant, or achieved a success so complete. As a governess, both in her classes and over the ladies in general, she has few superiors. It is that sort of government in which obedience and respect are almost spontaneously exercised without being felt as unpleasantly obligatory. There is in it both the natural familiarity which elicits the confidence and affection of the pupils, and the equally natural dignity which makes all rudeness and unseemliness of behavior nearly impossible.

Miss Hodgkins' scholarship is varied, thorough, and somewhat extensive, and it is kept fresh by constant culture and acquisition. A woman of excellent and sensible tastes, of great refinement, of a vivacious temperament and ready conversational powers, she is fitted to be a valuable member of society. Her religious character is decided and clear, rational, and at the same time spiritual, involving a conscientious regard for duty, seeking and using opportunities for good, and recognizing her responsibility in respect to any influence she may be able to exert, her action and example are most salutary and effective, both in the institution and in the community.

ST. CLARA FEMALE ACADEMY,

Founded at Benton, Wis., in 1846.

LOCATION AND BUILDINGS.

This Academy is situated on the side of Sinsinawa Mound, Grant county, Wisconsin, in the extreme southwestern corner of the state, within the angle formed by the Mississippi river and the Illinois boundary line. Sinsinawa, in the Sioux dialect, is translated "Home of the Young Eagle," according to the testimony of one of their aged chiefs who wandered to this spot some years ago to gaze sadly upon the former happy hunting grounds of his tribe. The eminence called the "Mound," according to the usual western phraseology, is a conical hill, rising about six hundred feet above the surrounding country, whose entire base has a radius of about six miles, and which forms a striking feature in the otherwise dead level of the prairie country; the slope is so gentle that the ascent is hardly perceptible until within about three hundred feet from the summit, when it rises quite suddenly in the form of a truncated cone, whose sides, swelling and sinking in long extended shallow valleys, and clothed with a magnificent growth of patriarchal oaks, make Sinsinawa Mound a landmark of which Wisconsin may well be proud.

The building is upon the southern slope of the hill, and is thus sheltered from the sweeping north winds, which are the

severest trial of a prairie winter; it is about 129 feet below the summit, yet above the reach of the miasma from the river, and enjoys a remarkable degree of healthfulness. Since the erection of the present building in 1844, not one case of epidemic sickness has occurred therein, a remarkable fact in consideration of the constantly changing household of an educational institution. This marked healthfulness of site is largely taken advantage of during the hot season by invalids from the neighboring cities. At the base of the Mound flows the Sinsinawa river, a pretty little stream with many windings. The summit of the Mound is capped by an outlying mass of Niagara limestone, a peculiar geological feature that has excited much interest among the savants of the northwest, as this group exists in but one other small space within the area of many hundred square miles, in fact within the entire limit of the lead region. It gives a peculiar castellated appearance to the flat top, as the character of the rock, split as it is into parallel beds, irresistibly impresses one at first sight as colossal masonry. At the base of the Mound *outside* the limits of the estate owned by the academical body, there have been discovered within the past two years, several exceedingly rich deposits of galena; no explorations for ore have been made within the inclosure, as the owners hesitate to sacrifice the beauty of situation of which they are so justly proud, by risking an attempt which might only end in disappointment.

The grounds in front of the building are filled with an extensive growth of Norway pine, cedar and arbor vitæ, the finest and

oldest growth of such trees in the state, set out about twenty years ago, they are now in the prime of their slow maturity; elsewhere in the grounds, nature has been left to herself, excepting in opening several smooth, wide lawns, as art would only mar the perfect beauty of the landscape. The entire estate comprises three hundred and sixty acres; the inclosure immediately surrounding the academy, composing ornamental and recreation grounds, contains fifty acres.

The academy was originally located at Benton, twelve miles further to the northeast, and a splendid sandstone structure was erected there for boarding school purposes, built in the form of a hollow quadrangle, after a plan in the European style by the founder, who was architect as well as superintendent of all the public buildings with which he was connected. In 1867, the present place was bought, as the position and rare healthfulness offered inducements superior even to the costly new structure. The present building is of sandstone from a quarry on the estate built in 1845; it is four stories in height, with an observatory of three additional stories, which, from the elevated position of the building, offers a fine view of smiling plains and the broad Mississippi. Adjoining the main building is another, erected as a hall for commencement day assemblies, concerts, lectures, etc., and capable of seating two thousand five hundred persons. A new and much larger building is loudly called for by the rapidly increasing needs of the school, but the general depression in money matters has caused its indefinite postponement. An ex-

tensive cabinet of philosophical and astronomical apparatus is connected with the house, a large share of which was donated from the private resources of the founder; this collection is being annually increased as discoveries in science require. The entire range of buildings is heated by steam, the machinery having been in constant use for the past nine years, eight months at least of the year, yet needing no repairs, except the occasional insertion of a section of pipe; water is transmitted through the building by the same engine.

HISTORY OF ACADEMY.

St. Clara Academy was founded in 1846 by Rev. Samuel Mazzuchelli, a native of Milan, Italy, where he was born in 1806. Only son of a wealthy family, bankers for many generations in that city, he forsook all that wealth and influence could offer, and came to this country at the age of twenty-two, one of the early pioneers of the wilderness. With a great mind, brilliant talents and vast learning, he carried out his early boyish dream of evangelizing the savage. This darling object of his heart he followed for many years, till the crying needs of his own race, then almost as destitute of Christian training in that part of the country, as his Indian neophytes, drew him to their assistance, and thenceforth, as sole pastor of all the tract now comprising Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota, able jurisconsult, to whose legal knowledge government authorities were glad to have recourse, scientific lecturer, architect of the whole north-

west, as nearly all the church and court house buildings erected previously to the past ten years bear witness, he utilized the splendid gifts of his many-sided genius where, surely, there was vast need of it. The closing acts of his life, filled with more good works, with more steady and varied mental and physical labor than it would seem possible for one man to accomplish, was the foundation of a college in this state, and a female academy endowed with funds falling to his share as heir of a large Italian property. The latter institution, incorporated in 1852, he placed under the charge of Dominican Sisters, imbibing the enterprising character of their founder, who foresaw and longed to provide for the needs of his adopted country, with a zeal and depth of comprehension which many of her native born sons seem unable either to possess or understand. Since his death in 1865, the institution has founded different branches in Chicago, Madison, Faribault and various other cities of the several adjoining states, where, in regularly graded schools are taught both sexes of all ages and classes. The experiment of teaching boys of fourteen and upwards was considered a hazardous one by those who knew that in schools presided over by these ladies, there is no opportunity of a resort to masculine strength and authority in extreme cases, as in other large schools superintended by a male principal, but the oft-repeated and disputed assertion, that physical coercion in necessary in the government of boys seems to be refuted in this case at least, of a surety. The number of scholars taught in the several depart-

ments lies between four and five thousand, fully half of whom are boys, of the various ages and types that frequent the public schools of large cities. There has been no rejection of any one case, for previous troublesome reputation or any cause; yet, in no case have these teachers failed to secure perfect obedience, respect and the certainty of mental improvement.

AIM OF THE INSTITUTION AND COURSE OF STUDY.

The academy proper, at Sinsinawa Mound, is of course, a boarding school. The regular academic course of study extends through four years; for entering upon this, in the English department, a thorough knowledge of the elementry branches is required; a different department is devoted to those who are not able to meet these requirements, yet another, to children under twelve years of age.

The following is the regular course of study at present:

First Year. — Arithmetic, English Grammar, Composition, United States History, Elements of Natural Philosophy, Latin and French at option.

Second Year. — Arithmetic, Algebra, Modern History, Rhetoric, Philosophy, Physiology, Bookkeeping, Latin and French continued.

Third Year. — Arithmetic, Algebra, Rhetoric, Philosophy, Astronomy, Physiology, Geometry, Latin and French.

Fourth Year. — Chemistry (rudiments), Geology, Physiology, Geometry, Plane Trigonometry, Intellectual Philosophy. Taking copious notes of Historical Readings is obligatory.

TEXT BOOKS.

Quackenbos' Series — Grammar, Rhetoric, Philosophy and United States History. Ray's Mathematical Series, with exception of Geometry, in which Davies' Legendre is found preferable. Cutler's Physiology, Gray's Botany, Hitchcock's Geology, Youman's Chemistry, Abercrombie's Intellectual Philosophy.

Latin. Harkness' Grammar and Reader, Andrews' Cæsar, Cooper's Virgil.
French. Fasquelle's Course; Readers: Sauveur's Causeries, Telemaque, Racine.
German. Ahn's and Woodbury's Methods, Woodbury's Readers, Gœthe's Letters.
Italian. Ahn's and Ollendorf's Methods, Fonesti, Current Literature.

The various branches in the above course, with the exception of Latin and French are obligatory for the English course, for the satisfactory fulfillment of which, an English diploma is bestowed by the faculty. A satisfactory knowledge of the Æneid of Virgil is necessary for receiving a Latin diploma. The annual number of graduates has never exceeded seven, as the peculiar social feature of a comparatively new country renders the course laid down above, and the thorough completion, too arduous, necessitates a longer time for the fulfillment of its requirements than accords with the impatient spirit of this section of country. The majority remain only long enough to be thoroughly drilled in the various branches of a common school education. Music is of course one of the special features of the school, but all candidates are speedily disabused of the still too commonly received notion, that the highest achievement of a female student is a musical triumph or a marvel of embroidery.

Were the aim of this Institution a pecuniary one, it would greatly promote its interests by lowering and narrowing its standard; a course which would directly conflict with the purpose for which it was founded, that is teaching the young Christian that she becomes a better Christian by improving to the utmost her God-given faculties.

The Academy is a Roman Catholic Institution, its corps of teachers a body of religious women of the order of St. Dominic, founded for the sole purpose of teaching, whose whole training is to that end, who are taught from the first that all truth is divine and that mind is man's best earthly endowment, and that no false reasoning, no foolish fear of woman's stepping down from her sphere should interfere with woman's highest intellectual development, for they know that those who have left their own sphere have not sought honestly the great aim they pretended to follow — who teach that wide knowledge of the resources of this beautiful world cannot endanger a soul rightly guided and strengthened, but will lead her more surely to Him who gave us both the universe and the faculties wherewith to explore it. Many of the pupils enter with the intention of becoming teachers elsewhere, therefore the course of instruction is in the main directed to that end; and yet more is it directed to fixing firmly in those young hearts, the full realization of the heavy responsibility that will rest upon them, as wives and mothers, educators of the future citizens of this republic.

This sketch of the St. Clara Female Academy is furnished by one of its Sisterhood, but as it would be incomplete, without honorable mention of one at least, of the noble women who devote their lives to its interests, this brief history of its young Mother, Emily Power, is added without her knowledge.

She was chosen to fill this office in 1865, at the age of twenty

years, and the choice by ballot, recurring every two years, has resulted each time, in retaining this gifted woman in the place.

It will be remembered that the Sinsinawa property was originally, by the endowment of the Rev. Samuel Mazzuchelli, a Dominican College. After a lapse of years, this brotherhood found itself deeply involved in debt, and sold the estate to a business firm in Dubuque. In 1867, the Sisters of St. Clara, then in a flourishing condition at Benton, conceived the idea of redeeming the Sinsinawa estate, over which desolation and ruin brooded, that they might reconsecrate this fair spot to the service of the church.

Their funds for effecting this purchase had accumulated from teaching in the Academy, and in both parish and public schools.

Ten thousand dollars were expended on the buildings to make them habitable, and while the Benton place was retained as a novitiate, St. Clara Academy found a new home on Sinsinawa Mound. All the business negotiations and arrangements connected with this transfer were effected by the Mother Emily Power. Branch schools in various places have been the outgrowth of Sinsinawa, and in every case the Mother has made the purchases of real estate necessary, examining deeds and securing titles with the acuteness and accuracy of a skilled lawyer. She has the oversight and control of all these schools, traveling from station to station, and so wisely conducting the finances of each, that all are prosperous and unincumbered by debt.

We often deem it a laborious task for a man, to keep in har-

monious action one literary institution; what then shall be said of this young woman of thirty years, small in stature and of delicate organization, with her many fields of labor, carefully and wisely governed and guarded?

We leave this question to be answered by those who deny to woman the highest intellectual capacity, if any such can be found, in an age which bears on its escutcheon the names of Maria Mitchell and Mary Somerville.

MILWAUKEE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

The necessity of establishing an Industrial School, which should have for its aim and object the reformation of vagrant children, and children who were permitted to wander in the streets as beggars, and those whose condition would naturally lead to vice and crime, had been a matter of much thought to the benevolent ladies of the city of Milwaukee for many months, and various plans had been proposed and discussed for the accomplishment of that object when the winter of 1874 set in. The unusual severity of that winter and the depression of all kinds of business whereby so many men and women were thrown out of employment, had the effect to increase largely the number of vagrant children in our streets, and proved to be the occasion for adopting active and decisive measures.

In February, 1875, a meeting of the ladies of Milwaukee was called to discuss the feasibility of establishing an Industrial School similar to others in operation in this and other countries.

An organization was perfected at that time, but was soon found to be of little practical benefit, owing to the want of co-operative legislatve action on the subject.

To meet this want a bill was introduced into the legislature of the state of Wisconsin, entitled "An act authorizing Industrial Schools," which passed both houses, was duly approved by the governor, and became a law on the 5th of April, 1875.

Section 5 of the act gives full authority to any court or officer having criminal jurisdiction in the state to cause to be brought before it or him,

I. Any male child under twelve years of age.

II. Any female child under fifteen years of age which may come under the following discriptions:

1. Found begging.

2. In any street or place for the purpose of begging or receiving alms.

3. Found wandering and not having any home, guardian or means of subsistence.

4. Destitute, either by being an orphan or having a parent or parents who are undergoing imprisonment.

5. That frequents the company of reputed thieves or lewd persons, or notorious resorts of bad character.

6. Found wandering in the streets and belonging to that class

called "rag pickers," or that is the inmate of any house of ill fame or poor house.

7. Abandoned by his parents or guardians.

8. Without means of subsistence or support.

"The court or officer before whom any such child shall be brought, if satisfied that the welfare of such child will be promoted thereby, may order such child to be sent to any Industrial School within his own county, if there be such school therein, and if not, to any such school in any county in this state, and may direct that such child be kept and maintained at the expense of the county, in such school until it arrives at the age of twenty-one years, or be sooner discharged as in this act provided."

The organization which had instituted this work immediately took steps to organize in pursuance of the law, and became a corporation in April of the same year.

A building and lot were rented at once, in a central and healthy part of the city, and preparations were made to enable the corporation to carry out the purpose of the law in its true intent and meaning. Scarcely, however, had it received into its care some of the children for whose reformation and protection the law was intended, when certain parties not in sympathy with the movement claimed that the law was unconstitutional, and took steps to test its validity. A suit is now pending and is still undetermined.

The question of the validity of the law arose in this way:

Certain children were taken from the poor house of Milwaukee county, by virtue of the law and the order of the court, and were placed in the custody and under the control of the Industrial School. A bill was presented to the board of supervisors of Milwaukee county for payment of the expenses of caring for such children. The board of supervisors declined to pay the bill, on the ground that the law was unconstitutional. Thereupon an application was made by the corporation for a writ of mandamus against the board of supervisors, to compel the payment of the bill as rendered. The counsel of the corporation think there is no doubt of the validity of the law, and that the board of supervisors will be ordered by the court to pay the bill. Should that feature of the law, however, which requires the board of supervisors to pay the expenses of children taken from the poor house, be declared invalid, it will not, as the corporation is advised, impair or affect other provisions of the law.

The Milwaukee Industrial School is the only reformatory institutitution for girls in the state. Believing it to be a most important charity, and well deserving the sympathy and coöperation of the public, it will look, not only to the people of Milwaukee, but to the state at large, for the necessary means to carry out successfully the purpose of its organization.

An Industrial School for Boys is already established in the state, in which boys ten years old and upwards are received. A petition is now before the legislature of this state praying for the passage of a law to permit the transfer of boys from the

Milwaukee Industrial School to that institution whenever the prescribed age is reached.

There is a steady increase in the number of resident inmates of the Milwaukee Industrial School, and the demand for accommodation already begins to tax the capabilities of the building, compelling prospective measures for prospective wants. The corporation is largely dependent upon voluntary contributions, and is in need of state aid. The board of managers consists entirely of ladies who have associated for the purpose of conducting and maintaining the school. Their services are voluntary and unpaid. Only the matron, teacher and two assistants receive pay for their services. Fifty-nine children have been received into the institution during the ten months of its existence, forty-one still remain, eighteen having been discharged according to the provisions of the law.

The cash receipts have amounted to three thousand, five hundred and thirty-seven dollars, and the disbursements have been three thousand and sixty-two dollars.

To Mrs. Wm. P. Lynde, our worthy president, is due the inception of the work, and to her untiring thought and labor, cordially seconded and assisted by the officers of the corporation and the executive board, as well as by the whole corps of co-laborers, belongs the execution of the work. The officers of the corporation are as follows:

Mrs. Wm. P. Lynde, *President.*
Miss Mary Mortimer, *1st Vice President.*

Mrs. E. P. Allis, *2d Vice President.*
Mrs. Edward Sanderson, *3d Vice President.*
Mrs. C. D. Adsit, *Treasurer.*
Mrs. H. M. Finch, *Secretary.*

Executive Committee.

Mrs. Joseph E. Follett, Mrs. A. C. May, Mrs. W. G. Benedict,
Mrs. T. H. Judd, Mrs. Wm. H. Metcalf.

The executive committee have been ever on the alert to manage the affairs of the corporation for the best interest of all concerned, and have watched with jealous care every detail. The other committees have also been active and faithful.

The managers feel greatly encouraged to continue in their work, by the improvement of the children for whom they labor. The future alone can attest the benefits of the institution, but the success of similar schools in both continents approves the method.

Every day are the managers of the Milwaukee Industrial School confirmed in the belief of its advantages to those for whom it is organized. The work is arduous, the duties laborious, but the results are not for time. The words of the Master seem peculiarly appropriate: "Inasmuch as ye did it unto the least of these, ye did it unto me."

Mrs. H. M. Finch,
Secretary.

Milwaukee, Wis., *Feb. 25, 1876.*

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SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' HOME.

NEAR MADISON.

THE SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' HOME.

The history of this blessed and most successful work cannot be even briefly sketched, without going back and giving some of the steps which led to its foundation.

Among all the noble women who gave themselves to the sanitary work of the war, perhaps few were more peculiarly fitted for forming and carrying out plans than Mrs. C. A. P. Harvey. Just at her entrance upon womanhood, she had been left the eldest of a family of motherless girls, over whom she exercised a tender care even after her marriage.

The thrill of horror with which the people of Wisconsin learned that their Governor, Louis P. Harvey, had been drowned at Savannah, after the frightful battles of Pittsburg Landing and Shiloh, was one of those things never forgotten. His self appointed work had been the care of our soldiers in that fearful crisis, and out of this grew the career of his stricken wife. Denying herself the usual period of seclusion for the indulgence of a widow's grief, she, at her own request, received from her husband's successor, Governor Salomon, a commission to act as one of the sanitary agents of the state.

In the performance of duties thus assumed by her, she found many northern men languishing in southern hospitals, whose lives depended upon their removal to a more invigorating climate. Becoming convinced of this, she went to Washington,

and by her own almost unaided efforts procured the establishment of a convalescent hospital at Madison, Wisconsin.

This portion of Mrs. Harvey's work forms no necessary part of our story, so we must reluctantly pass in silence over many incidents, and her most interesting interviews with President Lincoln, the particulars of which are to be found elsewhere.

The building thus used and known as Harvey Hospital, had been built for a residence by Governor Farwell, and by its high, spacious and airy rooms, with ample communication between them, was admirably fitted for hospital purposes. After it was no longer needed for this use, Mrs. Harvey conceived the idea of converting it into a home for soldiers' orphans.

Upon her return from the south, in 1865, she brought with her a half dozen orphans of the war, whom she had picked up, not inquiring on which side their fathers fell. Chiefly through her persistency and indomitable will, the U. S. government was induced to convey to the state of Wisconsin the three wings which had been rented as hospital wards, and all the fixtures and supplies, provided the state would purchase the building and grounds. Before, however, this arrangement was completed, necessary funds were raised by private subscriptions, and the Home was opened Jan. 1, 1866, with eighty-four orphan inmates, and Mrs. Harvey at its head. It became a state institution March 31, 1866. A board of trustees was appointed, and Mrs. Harvey confirmed in her position as superintendent. Thus through the persevering efforts of one woman, Wisconsin

was led to keep the promises made to brave fellows as they enlisted: "We will take care of your wives and children."

Were we writing a story of man's work, other names might be mentioned, preëminently that of B. F. Hopkins, M. C., who gave efficient aid, and was an active and untiring member of the board of trustees, until death ended his labors.

Mrs. Harvey retained her position, giving a personal supervision to every smallest detail, and knowing every child by name, although their number rapidly mounted to nearly three hundred, but when it was securely established, she resigned, in May, 1867. After this time the office of Superintendent was filled by gentlemen, whose wives acted as Matrons, giving in all instances their whole strength and energy and the tenderest care to their work. Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Brewer and Rev. I. N. Cundall had each a brief authority, and upon the resignation of the latter, W. P. Towers was their successor, and his wife Mary Towers, as Matron, gave her utmost sympathy and industry to making the children comfortable and happy. Women were always employed as teachers, and, in nearly all, if not in all, cases it was a labor of love, in which the time out of regular hours was given to the effort to supply the place of real mothers to these bereaved ones.

Upon the resignation of Mr. and Mrs. Towers, in March, 1872, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Burton were selected to fill their places. Larger numbers of the girls were now approaching womanhood, and, like her predecessors, Mrs. Burton spared no ex-

ertions to surround these children with elevating and refining influences, in which she was sustained by her husband, and they were eminently successful. A few more years would have completed the work and sent the youngest soldiers' orphans out in some measure prepared to fill useful positions in the world. Retrenchments were, however, deemed necessary, and in 1874 the work of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home was brought to a close. Mr. and Mrs. Burton exerted themselves to the last, finding homes for those who were still incapable of self management. Of each of these "mothers" we may truly say, "Her children shall arise and call her blessed."

Seven hundred children were thus cared for, clothed and educated, and it must be conceded that they were made to feel themselves the objects of a peculiar regard, and thus peculiarly bound to live useful, honorable lives.

S. F. D.

Madison, Wis., *March 1, 1876.*

LOCAL VISITING COMMITTEE

For the Milwaukee County Public Charities and Corrections.

This Committee was organized April 2, 1873, for the purpose of ameliorating the condition of the inmates of the County Poor House, the House of Correction and the Jail.

The State Board of Charities and Reforms, in the annual re-

port presented to Gov. Washburn, in December, 1872, complained of the condition of the Milwaukee County Poor House. The report says: "Beds in an unsatisfactory condition. Lack of neatness around the buildings. Hospital neat and clean. Bad smell all over the house, in some parts intolerable and enough to create sickness." The board of supervisors was appealed to, but in vain, to rectify the abuses which had crept into the management of the Poor House.

At the annual meeting of the Ladies' Bible and Benevolent Association, Mrs. Lynde, as a member of the State Board of Charities and Reforms, laid the case before them. The association appointed a committee of four ladies — Mrs. Angus Smith, Mrs. A. J. Aikens, Mrs. J. Magie and Mrs. J. S. Ricker — to investigate the condition of the Poor House. Their report fully corroborated the truth of Mrs. Lynde's statements. The Benevolent Association called a meeting of all the working charitable and benevolent women of Milwaukee. The meeting was largely attended. The officers of the Bible and Benevolent Association resolved to engraft a new department upon their society — such was the origin of the Local Visiting Committee for the Milwaukee County Public Charities and Corrections. It is an association of women, having an advisory committee of gentlemen.

The aims of this association are to create a public interest in the welfare of the inmates of our charitable and penal institutions, to secure for these institutions proper sanitary regulations,

to see that the sick are properly cared for, and that a better classification of the inmates be made, so that the blind, the mute, the insane may be removed to appropriate asylums, and that the children may be taken from the County Poor House and trained in a healthier moral atmosphere to become worthy citizens, the ladies of the committee feeling that this last duty is the most imperative. Here, as in every community, there is a class poor and vagrant, dependent for their support upon public or private charity. Milwaukee has made ample provision for the relief of this destitute class. She has a county farm of several hundred acres, upon which are erected substantial brick buildings; one is devoted to hospital purposes; another is assigned to incurable old men; a large building is occupied by adult paupers; in this building is the insane department; there is also a small building for children.

Upon the organization of this society six standing committees were appointed, four for visiting the different departments of the Poor House, viz., committee on children, hospital committee, committee on adult paupers, and committee on insane. Two other committees, viz., committee for men and women at House of Correction; committee for inmates of jail and police stations. Each committee has a chairman and secretary, and makes reports to the Local Visiting Committee at its monthly meetings.

The officers of the association are, a president, two vice presidents, a recording secretary, and a treasurer. They are elected

for the year by a two-thirds vote, by ballot at the annual meeting, and are ex-officio members of all standing committees. The insane department, the hospital, and the children's department, are visited once a fortnight ; the other committees pay monthly visits. The members of this association feel that their labors have not been in vain, though they have failed to produce some necessary reforms, yet they are encouraged by what has been accomplished. They have awakened a healthy public interest in the charities and reforms of the county. Tax payers now take an interest in the manner in which the funds appropriated for the relief of the poor are disbursed. The bad bread provided at the Poor House was commented on in the Chamber of Commerce, and the person taking the contract for flour for that institution was censured.

The sick in the hospitals have been cheered by the kindly care of the ladies; they are now provided with better beds, and the ventilation of the building is decidedly improved.

The children have been removed from the Poor House, some to orphan asylums, but many more to the Industrial School. From the first the ladies of the committee have felt that the Poor House was not a proper asylum for children; for two years the committee labored to improve their condition there, but feeling how fruitless was the hope of any permanent good being effected, the members of the association last winter petitioned the legislature to pass a general law under which they could organize an association, and hold children as custodians.

Such a law was passed, and an Industrial School organized, a home and school in which children can be trained in the decencies of life, rescued from a life of vice and misery, and taught to gain an honest livelihood. The children placed in this school cannot be reclaimed by their parents.

It was not without some difficulty that the ladies succeeded in removing the children of the Poor House to this school. The Roman Catholics objected to the children of parents belonging to the Romish Church being under Protestant care. It was finally arranged by the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum receiving the children of their communion.

If no other good had resulted from the efforts of this association but this, the founding of the Industrial School, it alone would amply compensate for the time, thought and labor expended. But other good results have attended the labors of the society. The management or mismanagement of the insane department was a disgrace to a Christian community. The poor unfortunates were under the care of a brutal drunkard, they were handcuffed, chained and beaten, thrown into the cellar, insufficiently clothed and fed, deprived of what the lowest creature is entitled to, fresh air and clean water. Thank God! this is all changed, though not without great trouble have the insane been freed from the tyranny of a brutal keeper.

The ladies' efforts were misconstrued; impediments thrown in their way by officials, and although sufficiently positive proof was brought to convict the keepers of drunkenness and cruelty,

yet were they sustained and continued in office for some time. Lately they have been dismissed, and under the new rule of kindness these unfortunates have wonderfully improved; they now enjoy such comfort as humane care can afford.

The association has petitioned the legislature to have all the insane removed from the county poor houses to the state lunatic asylums, in order that they may have the benefit of proper medical treatment. Many patients who have been sent from our Poor House to the State Insane Asylum at Madison have been restored to reason and returned to their families, capable of earning their own living. If all the insane throughout the state could have the benefit of the excellent treatment afforded by the state asylums, not only would the individuals so treated be benefited, but the number of paupers would be reduced, and an incalculable amount of good would be effected.

Great improvements have been made in the Poor House, through proper attention to cleanliness; the air of the place is much improved. The present Poor Master, Mr. Haas, is a humane man, and keeps the establishment in a clean and orderly condition. New furnaces have been put into the building, bath rooms added, and a better system of sewerage introduced, iron bedsteads have been provided, and also a better supply of bedding.

THE HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

The committee has not affected much good by its visits to this establishment; visits have not been well received by the superin-

tendent. It is hoped in the future, that some good may be effected by the ladies acquainting themselves with the time at which the women's term of punishment expires, and by then assisting them to obtain employment and decent lodgings.

THE JAIL AND THE POLICE STATION.

The jail and police station have been visited every month. The visits, if not attended with any particular results, have perhaps tended to have those places kept in a cleaner condition than heretofore. The visitors have supplied the inmates with books and papers. They have at all times been courteously received by the officials.

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Officers.

Mrs. Wm. Pitt Lynde, - - -	*President.*
Mrs. J. H. Van Dyke, - - -	*1st Vice President.*
Mrs. J. Fairbanks, - - -	*2d Vice President.*
Mrs. Galbraith Miller, - - -	*Recording Secretary.*
Mrs. J. Magie, - - - -	*Treasurer.*

Executive Committee.

Mrs. Wm. Pitt Lynde,	Mrs. A. J. Aikens,	Mrs. Anna McCarter,
Mrs. J. H. Van Dyke,	Mrs. J. S. Peck,	Mrs. Wm. H. Wolf,
Mrs. J. Fairbanks,	Mrs. H. M. Finch,	Mrs. Geo. W. Bacon,
Mrs. Galbraith Miller,	Mrs. G. W. Allen,	Mrs. E. Sanderson,
Mrs. J. Magie,	Mrs. J. T. Gilbert,	Mrs. E. D. Holton.

Respectfully submitted to the Centennial Committee on Charities.

Mrs. Galbraith Miller,
Recording Secretary.

HEBREW BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION.

Being requested to give a brief sketch of the work of our Hebrew Women of this city, I will comply to the best of my ability, though there is but little to be said, being so few here. We organized in the year of 1862 a Ladies Hebrew Benevolent Association, numbering twelve members, for the purpose and object of assisting and relieving those needy and in distress, particularly our object has been to aid widows and orphans, though by no means do we make it a point of exclusively assisting those of our faith. Whoever calls upon us receives benefit, as long as our funds hold out.

Our President, Mrs. S. Klauber, attends to all business transactions and, at our semi-annual meetings, gives account thereof. Not wishing to specify any direct deeds of charity tendered, will close by stating our motto is, "Never let one in need pass your door without giving your mite." By always acting up to this, we try to fulfill our calling.

Mrs. S. KLAUBER,
President.

Mrs. C. KLAUBER,
Secretary.

MADISON, WIS., *February 18, 1876.*

WISCONSIN INSTITUTE FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE DEAF AND DUMB.

This Institution is situated in Delevan, and deserves a special place in our records, inasmuch as it has been greatly aided by the efficient teaching and management of our sex. Deprived from birth of the sense of hearing and as a consequence of the interdependent power of speech, how pitiful is the appeal of these afflicted ones to those upon whom every sense is showered in full development — alas, too often, like the common blessings of air and sky, they fall unnoticed on ungrateful hearts. We cannot sufficiently admire those whose gratitude for the beautiful gifts of heaven has led them to a consecration to the work of opening deaf ears, and teaching the dumb the divine art of speech.

We honor Miss Emily Eddy, a highly educated and benevolent hearted lady, who has given her life, for nearly twenty years past to the children and youth upon whom nature has placed the ban of silence, gathered in the Wisconsin Institution.

By a wonderful tact and skill which her experience has developed, she has invented a system of articulation and lip reading, which greatly facilitates the process of placing these unfortunate youth in communication with the outer world. It is often said by those who would depreciate female capacities, that the names of women are never found on the roll of inventors. It is true that her limited arena has made this statement partially

UNIVERSITY OF INDIANA, BLOOMINGTON.

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Foundations

correct. But that women are not endowed with the same native powers, in virtue of which, men contribute so heavily to our patent offices, we deny.

Let a man share for one day in the avocations of domestic life, and he would discover from the devices resorted to in the kitchen and sewing room, and which are necessary to round out the harmonies of the home, that invention is a second nature to woman. And here in the case of Miss Eddy, we behold inventiveness carried to its ultimatum in supplying the lack of two important senses, by wisely guiding a third sense, so as to make the most of it, and thus correct the very inaccuracies of Nature herself.

We have a just pride in a tribute of praise to this lady, who when applied to for a report of her work returns as answer: "I am not conscious of a single deed performed that would add glory to your record — little by little in connection with others, have I striven to lift these children and youth out of darkness into light." In speaking of Miss Adams, who for seven years presided over the domestic department of the Wisconsin Institute for the Blind, and had charge of the girls out of school hours, Miss Eddy says: "She did much to mould their character and make them useful and efficient women, but you could as easily bring to light the action of the dew as describe her work." We are quite content that the quiet and genial operations of Nature, with their refreshing and vivifying influences, should typify woman's accomplishments. A. B. B.

Madison, Wis., *March 6, 1876.*

ALL SAINTS CATHEDRAL AID SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE.

The objects of this society are, to assist the poor, to aid worthy churchwomen in obtaining employment, to sew for missionaries when so requested by the bishop or pastor in charge of the congregation, and to help by its labors to raise money for church purposes. It was organized November, 1872, by women of the congregation of All Saints' Cathedral, but not confined as to membership to that congregation. During the last three years many poor families have been relieved, missionaries assisted, and money raised by its labors for church purposes. A communion service was purchased for the cathedral, and the society assisted in furnishing the cathedral schools. A sewing school has been one of the outgrowths of this society, a school now numbering nearly a hundred scholars. During the session of the diocesan council, the society provides a dinner for its members.

Officers:

Miss S. Prentiss, President.
Mrs. W. S. Johnson, Vice-President.
Mrs. Galbraith Miller, Secretary.
Mrs. Green, Treasurer.
Mrs. Hinsdale, Directress.
Mrs. Felthausen, Directress.
Mrs. Hays, Directress.
Mrs. E. M. Hunter, Directress.

THE CATHEDRAL SEWING SCHOOL.

This is for poor girls irrespective of creed, and was taken in charge by the present organization in April, 1875, the attendance then not exceeding fourteen; but it has gradually increased to (at this writing) one hundred and twenty-one. Sewing and singing have hitherto been taught with great success, and knitting and other useful branches of work will be introduced gradually, so as to fit the children for domestics, seamstresses, etc. The children are mostly clothed by the efforts of the ladies in charge of them, and through the medium of the school a large number of poor families are reached who would be otherwise neglected, and marked improvement has been seen in the homes of many of those who have been attending the school, whilst several of the girls have been placed in good situations. Eleven ladies are now busily engaged in the work, either in teaching or soliciting clothing, sewing materials, etc.

Mrs. Catharine Brown most ably takes charge of this school.

Milwaukee, Wis., *February 5, 1876.*

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION OF BELOIT.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union was formed in Beloit, April, 1874. Monthly meetings were held, and a children's temperance society organized which still has a prosperous existence. Mass meetings held during the year, lectures on temperance given, and much good accomplished generally.

In March, 1875, two ladies, Mrs. Marshall and Miss Peet, rented a hall and fitted it up tastefully as a reading room. With the assistance of Mrs. Williams and the officers, gospel temperance services have been conducted there each Sabbath of the year with most happy results.

The rooms are open during the evenings of the week, as a safe and attractive place of resort for young persons. The library consists of books of general literature, which, together with current papers and magazines, are constantly supplied by the kindness of friends of the enterprise.

Anna Keep,
Recording Secretary.

THE MILWAUKEE MISSION BAND.

On Saturday, the 12th of November, 1870, as related in the first secretary's first report, twenty young ladies assembled in the parlors of Plymouth Church, at the invitation of Miss Fanny Norcross, the pastor's niece, to form themselves without reference to religious creeds or preferences into a branch of the "Women's Union Missionary Society." This association had been formed some eight years previously by a number of noble Christian women who desired to extend to their degraded sisters in India the privileges of religion and education they themselves enjoyed. To this end the coöperation of all earnest women throughout the United States was cordially invited, and the formation of local mission bands advised. These bands were to pledge themselves to support one or more pupils at the numerous female seminaries which have been established in India, and from which, by that slow but unfailing process of infiltration familiar to the students of progress, Christian civilization is finally to crumble into ruins the hideous temple of heathenism, with all its grinning gods. The suggestion was at once eagerly received, officers were elected, weekly meetings appointed, the usual business preliminaries complied with, and thus, in a spirit of enthusiasm and generous emulation, these twenty young girls culled from the ranks of society which the flippant writers of pseudo society novels are pleased to denominate *fashionable*,

meaning frivolous, empty headed, heartless, and anything else unlovely and unwomanly, prepared to assume some of the weightier duties of life. But, as is usual with embryonic benevolent societies, their means at first were as limited as their aims were large. An initiation fee of one dollar, trifling fines for absence and tardiness, honorary membership at 50 cents per capita, occasional donations from friends, these with a score or so of willing helpful hands, constituted the sole working capital of the Mission Band during the first years of its existence.

Nevertheless, it did not hesitate to assume the maintenance of a little Hindoo girl, who was baptised Faith Norcross in honor of its first president, and whose welfare, during the next two years, was the object of its constant solicitude. It is needless to recount the various devices made use of to procure the fifty-eight dollars per annum pledged to the Hindoo girl's support. They are familiar to all acquainted with the *modus operandi* of similar organizations. Fancy work was made at the weekly meetings and sold at the usual exorbitant rates, orders for plain sewing were obtained from sympathizing housekeepers, private theatricals were given with more or less pecuniary and artistic success. When the two years allotted to Faith Norcross' education had expired, and she became competent to support herself, her benefactresses found they had earned a place for themselves in the estimation of the community, and a beneficiary power which they were unwilling to relinquish. They determined, however, to devote themselves in future to objects nearer home.

These were by no means difficult to find. We do not need scriptural authority to know that "the poor we have always with us," and from this time may be dated the Mission Band's best usefulness. From every ward of the city, every nationality and every creed, these young girls selected the recipients of their bounty. All were visited at their homes and their wants personally inquired into. Some received food and fuel, others homely articles of furniture. Women struggling for bread were helped to purchase a sewing machine or a laundress' outfit. Arrears of rent and small debts at the butchers and grocers were discharged. Nurses were engaged for helpless invalids, and responsible women to take care of broods of motherless children. Besides the innumerable cast off articles donated by the friends of the society, hundreds of warm new garments and comfortables were made at the weekly meetings and distributed by careful hands. During the winter of 1874–5, unparalleled for its rigor and wide spread suffering, the exertions of the Mission Band redoubled. From the 8th of October to the 28th of April, inclusive, twenty-eight meetings were held, with an average attendance of thirty members. The membership list increased from sixteen to ninety-four. A theatrical entertainment and a charity ball were given, netting a thousand dollars. Eight hundred and sixty-eight yards of material were made into garments and bed clothing, $225 were expended in food and fuel, 120 familes were preserved from actual want.

During this year, also, the society first assumed a permanent

form by the adoption of a constitution and by-laws suited to its special objects, and thereby entitled itself to a position among the organized charities of Milwaukee. That this position is neither unimportant nor carelessly maintained, the daily appeals that are made to the good offices of the Mission Band, the enthusiastic activity of its members and its wide spread and increasing influence, sufficiently attest. As an evidence of what can be accomplished by earnest, united effort in a field that is open to all, it is certainly a success, and to the young daughters of wealth and fashion throughout this broad land of ours, whose hearts are pitiful, though they beat under velvet or seal-skin, and whose hands lying folded in their silken laps, are ready for the gentle offices of sisterly love, an earnest invitation is extended to follow its example, and earn for themselves the reward which the fifth Beatitude promises, when it says, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

Lucy M. Schley,
Secretary.

WISCONSIN STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

This most important, perhaps of all Wisconsin's public hospitals, is one of the leading objects of interest in her beautiful capital.

Its success and prosperity has been greatly owing to the efficiency and fidelity of its matron.

WISCONSIN STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE,

NEAR MADISON.

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Foundations.

Mrs. Mary C. Halliday, for sixteen years, which covers its entire existence, has devoted herself to the supervision of the varied departments which constitute the life of a hospital, containing at this time three hundred and forty-seven patients. Mrs. Halliday has seen, during her residence at the hospital, six changes in the superintendency of the institution, but through them all, she has stood faithfully discharging her arduous duties, and giving entire satisfaction to all associated with her, as well as to the trustees and officers of the board.

The sphere of a matron of an insane hospital is very wide, and often embraces enough to crush a woman of common caliber. To plan and provide for the best good of all, with a judicious economy, and to dispense each day to the wants and caprices of suffering humanity — to sympathize with the sick, and cheer the despondent has been the mission of this devoted woman. With unflagging interest to this day, the improvement of the hospital, and the comfort of its stricken inmates, is the dearest object of her heart.

Kindred in a distant state repeatedly urge upon Mrs. Halliday, the duty of retiring from her labors, after the many years of arduous toil, but to these syren voices she has ever turned a deaf ear.

That the Wisconsin Hospital may be long favored by her ministrations, all who are cognizant of the "good works and alms deeds" administered there by Mrs. Mary C. Halliday, most earnestly desire. A. B. B.

Madison, Wis., *March 17, 1876.*

THE CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS OF MILWAUKEE.

In an age which is agitated by the discussion of economic questions, which has employed great intellects in debating the rights and the mission of woman, it is, in some sort, an act of temerity to say that the Catholic Church has discussed, and in many of its aspects, decided this momentous question.

Our sex is specially fitted for the instruction of the young, for the care of the aged, the infirm and the sick. While the world is full of theories concerning the rights of woman, there is but one opinion regarding her capability as a nurse and instructor of early youth. Under the discipline of the Catholic Church, this specialty of labor has been for ages under organization and direction, and in the great strifes of humanity, there can scarcely be found in modern times the name of a great battle field where the influence of this great mission has not been felt, and defaced and suffering humanity soothed by the tender care of those whom the church had sent to this work with her protection and blessing.

The sketch of the labor of Catholic women in Milwaukee must therefore be a small group taken from the larger canvass, protraying the work of the whole organization, of which each branch is a part.

The order of Sisters of Notre Dame, first founded at Lorraine in 1597, and modified in 1832, under the name of the School

Sisters of Notre Dame, is dedicated to the gratuitous Christian education of young girls. The mother house and novitiate of the United States were removed to Milwaukee on the 15th of December, 1850. From this city are sent religious to nearly all the states of the Union, and to the Dominion of Canada.

The number of religious now engaged in this work, excluding novices, is about eight hundred. The number of pupils now attending parochial schools under their charge is thirty-three thousand. Those attending institutes and high schools number eight hundred, in addition to which they have the charge of two thousand orphans. No comment is attempted on this statement.

Saint Rosa's Orphan Society, for the support and education of orphan girls in this city, was incorporated under a general law of the state, on the 6th of December, 1850, and went into operation on the 13th of February, 1851.

As in the case of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, I shall present without comment such statistics as could be procured in limited time.

A part of the children are at St. Joseph's Asylum on North Point, but both houses are governed by the same society, and their inmates in the statement following are regarded as belonging to the same household.

The asylum since its organization has received seven hundred children, among whom twenty deaths have occurred. In December last, the number of inmates was one hundred and forty-five. The average number remaining in the institution at the

end of each of the past three years was one hundred and thirty-nine. The average cost of maintenance, including all expenses for the past three years, was each year twelve thousand dollars, thus showing an average yearly cost for each inmate during the time mentioned, of somewhat over eighty-six dollars.

The English speaking Catholic congregations of this city assume the support of this asylum, but during the past ten years the state has contributed eight thousand dollars. It should also be gratefully mentioned that our citizens generally have contributed generously to its support. Its care and management are in charge of eight Sisters of Charity who, of course, work without pay. In addition to the ordinary household duties, such as cooking, washing, making and mending, and all the long list so well known to every housekeeper, the Sisters give to these orphans a good English education, and fit them to occupy respectable positions in society. It should not be omitted that they are also taught plain and fancy needlework.

The Sisters also give instruction in the St. Æmilianus Orphan Asylum for boys, supported by the German congregations of the city.

The large Hospital on North Point is also in charge of Sisters of Charity.

Within the present year six members of the Little Sisters of the Poor have established a house in this city. They have but just commenced their labor here, and now have fifteen inmates under their charge. Beginning in 1840, when its first bene-

ficiary, a blind old woman, was borne in the arms of its founders to its first home of St. Servan of Brittany, this society already sends its members throughout the civilized world. Gathering the aged and decrepit poor about them, its members give their lives wholly to their support and comfort. All their maintenance is gathered in alms, which the Little Sisters solicit for their charge. Surely in this case, God's blessing enables the poor to give a home to the poor.

There remain many other associations deserving of notice, composed principally of the women of the various congregations associated for the benefit of the poor, or for mental instruction.

Among Catholics, most of the great works of charity undertaken by our sex have been under the charge of women leading a religious life, and with the approbation of the church, partaking of its wonderful organization. The religious, for charity, gives up the sweet delights of home and kindred, and seeks her consolation in the care of the afflicted and the poor. To the orphan she is a mother, to the sick and wounded a sister. Leading a life whose reward is in the great hereafter, she is to all the representative of that charity which "suffereth long and endureth much."

Mrs. S. A. Nash,
Mrs. H. M. Schley.

Milwaukee, Wis., *March 20, 1876.*

LAKE GENEVA SEMINARY.

Geneva, Walworth Co., Wis.

This institution, combining a boarding and day school for young ladies, is a private enterprise. The course of study is collegiate, supplemented by special advantages for music and art. The family is the embodiment of a cultivated and refined Christian home. The experiment of limiting the number of pupils in the family to thirty, for the purposes of individual attention and a higher type of development, has proven satisfactory to patrons and teachers, and the school deserves attention as one of the most decided elements of eastern æsthetic culture in our state. The buildings are located upon an elevation descending to the east shore of the lake, with ample grounds, and ready access to the water for boating, bathing, etc. The residence building, in all its appointments, is one of the finest to be found in any state. It is of brick, fire-proof, warmed by steam, lighted with gas; each floor supplied with hot and cold water, with but one flight of stairs for pupils to ascend, and, withal, commands a view of the lake, the town, and their encircling range of hills.

Mrs. Julia A. (Lake) Warner, the founder and present principal of this school, was born in Mount Morris, Livingston county, N. Y., in 1819; received an education in common schools and taught in the same; entered what is now Ingham University, at Le Roy, N. Y., in 1837; was a graduate from that

institution, and was connected with it as pupil, teacher and resident ten years. She was married, in 1843, to Evander S. Warner. Twelve years of her married life were spent in Chicago, Ill., where she was one of the founders of the "Home for the Friendless," and for several years one of its managers; one of the managers of the "Industrial School Association," and an active member of the First Congregational Church in its early history.

The crowning life work of this Christian teacher, wife and mother was, with her husband and family, to bring to our state her ripe experience, and establish in our midst a school which has attained, in six years, an enviable reputation, and is an important factor in our educational element.

Mrs. Frank Buckbee.

ST. JOHN'S HOME.

This institution takes its name from the sentence chosen as its motto:

"From that hour, that disciple took her into his own home."

The undertaking being that of a body of brethren in Christ desirous of making their corporate union effective for Christian work, our beloved and lamented Bishop Wm. E. Armitage selected this name as a constant reminder and incentive.

The abiding together of the Blessed Mother and St. John, after the Saviour's charge from His cross; their holiness, their mutual tenderness of affection, their unceasing remembrance of Him who made them mother and son, all combine, in imagination, to make their home the very ideal of a Christian home. We set before ourselves the purpose, we pray the Master to help us to reach it, to make this Home, in tone and spirit, in influence and effect, more and more worthy of its name. It is in happy accord with the name, that the inmates have been chiefly aged and solitary women. Those who have cared for them have been abundantly repaid in their peaceful lives, and in the happy deaths of those who have been called away. We have at the present time only eleven inmates who, including the matron and servant, are all we can accommodate. We have been enabled, since the opening of the "Home," to provide shelter and food for about seventy persons, including a few children, many, of course, being only in need of temporary aid.

The charity known as "St. John's Home" has nearly completed its eighth year, and is designed to furnish homes for destitute and friendless women of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this diocese, so far as our means will permit.

When the women of our parish were organized into a Church Aid Society, a committee consisting of three ladies — Mrs. Louisa Delafield, Mrs. Anna McCarter and Mrs. H. O. Green — was chosen to find a house suitable for a "Church

Home," but it was not until June, 1868, that they made an actual beginning. On the 17th of the same month, our beloved and sainted Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Jackson Kemper, opened the "Home" with appropriate services. The building (326 Sycamore street) was fitted up and occupied as a "Home" until April, 1869, when, through the exertions of the executive committee, the house No. 682 Van Buren street was purchased, and, in May, the "Home" was removed to its present quarters.

The names of the first executive committee deserve to be here recorded.

Mrs. Elisha Eldred, *President.*
Mrs. Wm. H. Wright, *Treasurer.*
Mrs. Dr. Dousman, *Secretary.*

St. Paul's Church—Mrs. Jones, Miss S. Eldred.
St. John's Church—Mrs. Green, Larkin and Hardison.
St. James' Church—Mrs. Caswell, Featherstonhaugh and Miss Rousseau.
All Saints' Church—Mrs. Birchard and Hearding.
Christ's Church—Mrs. Alcott and Young.

The committee procured from the legislature of 1868, the charter for the "Home," and on Easter Tuesday, March 30th, the first board of directors was elected, consisting of the following named gentlemen: Messrs. James Kneeland, Ed. Roddis, Robt. Young, Winfield Smith, J. F. Birchard, Robt. H. Strong, H. T. Selby, E. H. G. Meacham, George Hardison, J. A. Helfenstein, Wm. P. Merrill, O. B. Buttles.

Under the charter, the Women's Executive Committee above named were appointed by the directors and entrusted with the

internal management of the Home. The executive committee now consists of thirty ladies, six from each parish in the city.

St. Paul's Church.

Mrs. W. F. Whitney,	Mrs. A. McCarter,	Mrs. Theo. F. Terhune,
Mrs. E. W. Barnes,	Mrs. Wixield Smith,	Miss. S. E. Eldred.

St. John's Church.

Mrs. Wm. Kendrick,	Mrs. Dr. Meacham,	Mrs. W. H. Wolf,
Mrs. H. P. Reynolds,	Mrs. W. S. Johnson,	Mrs. Eddy.

St. James' Church.

Mrs. L. F. Hodges,	Mrs. Jos. Paige,	Mrs. C. A. Buttles.
Mrs. Hutchinson,	Mrs. Ed. Bradley,	Mrs. Featherstonhaugh.

All Saints' Cathedral.

Mrs. Wm. H. Wright,	Mrs. W. L. Hinsdale,	Mrs. James Hickox,
Mrs. Dr. Orton,	Mrs. Wm. H. Hearding,	Mrs. B. W. Felthousen.

Christ's Church.

Mrs. R. C. Johnson,	Mrs. J. H. Walrath,	Mrs. J. B. Oliver,
Mrs. Fixter,	Mrs. E. Mariner,	Mrs. H. O. Green.

Officers of the Executive Committee.

Mrs. Wm. H. Wright, *President.*	Mrs. A. McCarter, *Treas. (pro tem).*
Mrs. Wm. H. Hearding, *Vice Prest.*	Mrs. Theodore F. Terhune, *Secretary.*

Our Home building is a large four story modern built house, altogether too small to accomodate our applications for admission.

Mrs. Theo. F. Terhune,
Secretary.

THE MILWAUKEE ORPHAN ASSOCIATION.

In the end of the year 1849, the ladies of the Milwaukee Benevolent Society became convinced that some steps must be taken to provide a home for the many orphan children that they met in their visits to the poor, and a committee of four were appointed to draw up a constitution which they presented to a meeting of the society on January 4, 1850.

The constitution was adopted, and the association organized, electing the following officers and managers for the coming year:

Officers.

Mrs. Louisa Hall, *1st Directress.* Mrs. W. L. Parsons, *Secretary.*
Mrs. G. P. Hewitt, *2d Directress.* Mrs. A. Mitchell, *Treasurer.*

Managers.

Mrs. B. McVickar,	Mrs. E. D. Holton.	Mrs. H. Peck,
Mrs. S. B. Grant,	Mrs. D. McDougal,	Mrs. J. Huestis,
Mrs. E. Eldred,	Mrs. A. D. Smith,	Mrs. A. F. Clarke,
Mrs. E. Ladue,	Mrs. W. H. Byron,	Mrs. J. F. Ragué,
Mrs. C. Arnold,	Mrs. J. P. Greves,	Mrs. Wm. P. Young.

Board of Councillors.

Asahel Finch, J. B. Martin, Francis Randall,
Eliphalet Cramer, Lindsay Ward.

Having obtained a charter from the legislature, and funds enough from kind friends to warrant a small beginning, the ladies rented a small house and went to work, poor indeed as the world counts gain, but rich in faith and hope, trusting largely

to the charities of the citizens, in which they have never been disappointed.

The family of nine children, with which they started, increased before the end of the year to twenty-three, for fifteen of whom good and permanent homes were found.

In 1851, Mrs. Wm. P. Young donated a valuable lot, on which, in 1854, a good sized and convenient building was erected, to which additions were made from time to time, as need required, till finally, in 1869, even that was found inadequate to accommodate the ever increasing family, and a large and commodious family mansion was purchased. This house is admirably adapted for the purpose, with large rooms and lofty ceilings, and, what conduces greatly to the health and happiness of the children, a pleasant yard, planted with shade trees and flowers on the high bluff overlooking our beautiful Lake Michigan.

Thus, for twenty-six years, a family of young children, varying in number from twenty to over sixty, with no endowment fund, no industry of sufficient magnitude to be profitable, but trusting only to "charity that never faileth," has been maintained without even suffering a single want, or feeling one necessity. Truly may we exclaim, "I will trust in Thee, and fear no evil, for thou God art with me."

During these foregoing years the legislature has appropriated $4,500 towards its support, for while it is not a state institution, or under the control or maintenance of the state, still orphan children from all parts of the state are received and cared for in

the asylum; girls under twelve years of age, and boys under ten, the object of the board being to provide good homes for the children, boys especially, before or as soon after twelve years old as possible. Infants who are full orphans are always taken in care by the institution; but infants who are half orphans are not received under two years of age. At the close of the twenty-sixth year, the whole number of children cared for since the commencement is 772.

The institution is out of debt, besides owning the asylum building, which stands a monument to the untiring labor of the women of Milwaukee in behalf of the orphan children.

During the first years of the association, hard work was necessary to supply the daily wants; and now though comparatively easy financially, yet if the ladies should cease their labors for one year even, they would be obliged to close their doors; for, though managed as economically as possible, a family of more than sixty require a good deal of expenditure to make them comfortable. The school, where they are also taught needle work and knitting, is attended by all but the youngest children. This, of course, is some expense, but is money well laid out, as it makes the children industrious, well behaved and intelligent, and better fitted to do their duty in that state of life unto which it shall please God to call them.

Officers.

Mrs. C. Shepard, *1st Directress.* Mrs. J. H. Van Dyke, *Treasurer.*
Mrs. S. S. Sherman, *2d Directress.* Mrs. Wm. P. Lynde, *Secretary.*
Mrs. E. Ladue, *3d Directress.* Mrs. A. McCarter, *Assistant Secretary.*
Mrs. J. W. Meacham, *Corresponding Secretary.*

Managers.

Mrs. E. Eldred,	Mrs. E. Shaw,	Mrs. J. H. Booth,
Mrs. A. F. Clarke,	Mrs. L. J. Hodges,	Mrs. Schoaf,
Mrs. M. B. Medbury,	Mrs. T. W. Goodrich,	Mrs. Elias Friend,
Mrs. R. D. Jennings,	Mrs. George Tracy,	Mrs. Everingham,
Mrs. G. D. Norris,	Mrs. C. Whitcomb,	Mrs. J. W. Meacham,
Mrs. Levi Kellogg,	Mrs. Frank Terry,	Mrs. A. McCarter,
Mrs. L. McKnight,	Mrs. J. D. Inbusch,	Mrs. C. A. Hendee,
Mrs. C. H. Larkin,	Mrs. W. H. Farnham,	Mrs. Dr. Meachem,
Mrs. Joseph Bradford,	Mrs. W. S. Hand,	Mrs. N. Simon,
Mrs. J. Magie.	Mrs. I. M. Adams,	Mrs. J. B. Kissinger,
Mrs. J. W. Van Schaick,	Mrs. J. J. Hagermann,	Mrs. L. Blake,
Mrs. John Plankington,	Mrs. R. C. Johnson.	

Matron—Miss Maria Mason. *Teacher*—Miss Wells.

Retired Managers who have served more than twenty years.

Mrs. J. H. Rogers, Mrs. H. Bosworth, Mrs. E. Cramer,
Mrs. G. Whitney, Mrs. G. P. Hewitt.

Board of Counsellors.

J. H. Van Dyke, A. Finch, J. D. Inbusch.

Auditor.—S. S. Sherman.

Anna McCarter,
Assistant and Acting Secretary.

Milwaukee, Wis., *February 22, 1876.*

MRS. WILLIAM PITT LYNDE.

Although it was not the object of this volume to record biographies, yet the history of woman's benevolent work in Wisconsin would be incomplete without honorable mention of Mrs.

Lynde, who was the inspirer and founder of many of the noblest charities in its largest city, Milwaukee, and who has for the last five years occupied a prominent place, with four gentlemen, on the State Board of Charities and Reform.

This lady is a native of the state of New York, and was married in the year 1841, at the age of twenty-two, to the Hon. Wm. Pitt Lynde, now member of congress. Mr. and Mrs. Lynde immediately sought the new west, and founded their home in the then territory of Wisconsin. Here she has always lived, and has enjoyed woman's highest honor and blessing in rearing a family of six children.

Mrs. Lynde had received an excellent school education, graduating from a female academy in Albany, N. Y., and taking the first prize medal for a composition which was read in Dr. Sprague's church by Wm. H. Seward, then governor of the state. This early culture of mind gave Mrs. Lynde sources of happiness which are not found in the rounds of fashionable life, and inspired her with an earnest desire for the true elevation of her sex.

Mrs. Lynde has never sought notoriety, but has been sought by the places which needed her services. She considered the world's charities next to home duties, to come within the pale of woman's influence and effort, and as early as the year 1849, was instrumental in the formation, and presided over, the first benevolent society in the city of Milwaukee, out of which grew the Protestant Orphan Asylum, and many other charitable organiza-

tions of ladies. Over this institution Mrs: Lynde has ever had a watchful care, and has been its efficient secretary for many years.

In 1871, Gov. Fairchild tendered and urged upon Mrs. Lynde a place on the Board of State Charities and Reform, which, by the advice of her husband, she was induced to accept. It has not been ascertained by the writer of this paper that a similar honor has been placed upon any woman in the land, unless the city of Boston on one occasion so honored itself. That Mrs. Lynde has been a most acceptable and useful officer on this board, her associate gentlemen members and the entire state attest.

To receive commendation from the censorship of the body politic, which is ever pronounced soulless and merciless in its dealings, is no small credit to any one; but especially to a lady, whose native refinement might incline her to shrink from some of the duties of her office. There is evidence, on the contrary, that Mrs. Lynde, by her knowledge of domestic life and home amenities, with a woman's intuition and delicate tact, has been able to contribute more to the real comfort and well being of the unfortunate within the walls of our public institutions, than any man could. The knowledge obtained in her capacity of membership in the State Board, of the deplorable condition of the poor houses of the state, led this untiring lady to make an appeal to the hearts of the women of her own city, which resulted in an organization, of which she is still president, called "The Local Visiting Committee for the Milwaukee County Public Charities and

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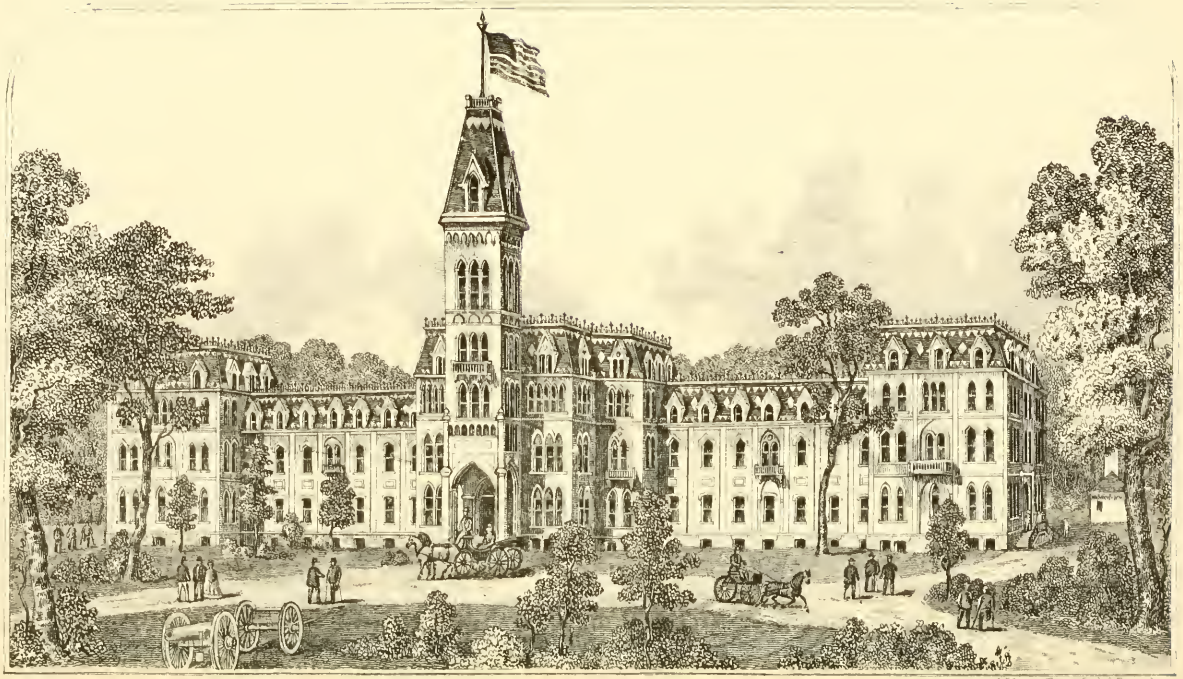

NATIONAL ASYLUM FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS,
NEAR MILWAUKEE, WIS.

Corrections." Out of this association has grown the Milwaukee Industrial School for girls and very young boys, of which Mrs. LYNDE is also president. What man on the Board of Charities has had his heart so touched that he has used the information he has gained by the observation of want and suffering, in establishing in his own town and county, such outgrowths of blessing to the cause of humanity? I hope there are many. Mrs. LYNDE has had added during the past two years to her other public services, that of Trustee of the Milwaukee Female College.

Such is the history in brief of one Christian woman in our young state, hastily and unworthily sketched at the last moment of time for the alloted task. As we have seen the golden chain of this life of love lengthen its bright links, we have wondered and admired. Long may it be spared to this commonwealth, and ever may the young daughters of Wisconsin aspire to the legacy of this glorious example, and "fill their odorous lamps with deeds of light" to illumine a darkened world.

A. B. B.

MADISON, WIS., *March 18, 1876.*

SOLDIERS' HOME, MILWAUKEE.

IN view of the exigencies of the times, a few earnest and patriotic women, residing in Milwaukee, fired with enthusiasm, and inspired by a common wish to stay not their hands in the

work, so long as there remained a pledge unfulfilled or a promise unredeemed to the soldiers of the rebellion, organized, April, 1864, an association to be known as "The Wisconsin Soldiers' Home," and chose the following officers and directors:

President — Mrs. Lydia E. Hewitt.

Vice Presidents:

Mrs. E. L. Buttrick, Mrs. J. J. Tallmadge,
Mrs. J. H. Rogers, Mrs. S. S. Merrill.

Secretary — Mrs. A. J. Aikens.

Assistant Secretary — Mrs. J. M. Kimball.

Treasurer — Mrs. D. A. Olin.

Directresses:

Mrs. Lydia E. Hewitt,
Mrs. E. L. Buttrick,
Mrs. J. H. Rogers,
Mrs. J. J. Tallmadge,
Mrs. S. S. Merrill,
Mrs. A. J. Aikens,
Mrs. D. A. Olin,
Mrs. S. T. Hooker,
Mrs. Chas. Bigelow,
Mrs. James Holton,
Mrs. A. Vedder,
Mrs. Byron Kilbourn,
Mrs. Walter Burke,
Mrs. Wm. Allen,
Mrs. Fred'k Wardner,
Mrs. Chas. Moody,
Mrs. H. O. Greene,
Mrs. W. R. Smith,
Mrs. Chas. Larkin,
Mrs. G. G. Dousman,
Mrs. John S. Ricker,
Mrs. Edw'd O'Neil,
Mrs. R. M. Forshee,
Mrs. O. H. Waldo,
Mrs. J. M. Durand,
Mrs. B. B. Jones,
Mrs. E. Terry,
Mrs. G. W. Sanford,
Mrs. Anna McCarter,
Mrs. A. Green,
Mrs. S. B. Scott,
Mrs. J. M. Kimball,
Mrs. H. C. Crocker,
Mrs. A. J. Langworthy,
Mrs. Geo. C. White,
Mrs. E. J. Hill,
Mrs. R. W. Pierce.
Mrs. Ambrose Ely,
Mrs. D. W. Richardson,
Mrs. W. G. Fitch,
Mrs. John Plankinton,
Mrs. J. M. Northrup,
Mrs. H. T. Thompson,
Mrs. Jackson Hadley,
Mrs. C. K. Watkins,
Mrs. R. P. Elmore,
Mrs. J. P. Whaling,
Mrs. C. E. Wendt,
Mrs. C. E. Hendee,
Mrs. C. A. Axtell,
Mrs. Lewis Mack,
Mrs. R. P. Fitzgerald,
Mrs. John A. Dutcher,
Mrs. Jos. Bradford,
Mrs. Dr. Hewitt,

Advisory Committee:

Mr. John Plankinton, Mr. J. J. Tallmadge,
Hon. Alexander Mitchell, Mr. W. N. Sinclair,
Mr. S. T. Hooker, Mr. H. T. Thompson,
Mr. W. B. Hibbard.

Legal Counsel—Mr. O. H. Waldo.

A building was immediately secured on West Water street near Spring, and used for the purpose of the Home until the transfer of property to the National Home, April 30, 1867. This organization was independent of all preëxisting ones, having no aid or support from the various commissions and no connection therewith, relying wholly upon voluntary contributions of the people. Popular enthusiasm was great and generous, and a feeling existed that too much could not be done to alleviate the sufferings and lessen the privations of the gallant men composing our armies. How to use wisely the popular enthusiasm when the pressing need for aid and succor was ever present, and how to crystallize it into a permanent benefit, when the exciting scenes of the war had been forgotten, soon became a serious question.

The plan projected by the organizers of this enterprise, whose name implied somewhat of its purpose, was substantially the same as that which has since been carried out by government, more fully than would have been possible by a private corporation. The institution was chartered by the legislature, February 3, 1865, having for its declared object the affording a temporary place of rest and refreshment for the soldiers of the Federal

army passing through the city on their way to and from the fields of active operation, and a future asylum for such soldiers honorably discharged from the service, who, having no homes, and disabled by wounds or sickness, were unable to support themselves.

To raise the funds necessary for the erection of an asylum, a fair was projected and held in the city of Milwaukee, opening June 28, 1865, and continuing ten days; for which purpose a temporary building was erected, three hundred feet front by one hundred and thirty-five feet deep, surmounted by an arched roof fifty feet high, beneath which, in the center of the structure, was erected a floral temple. Running entirely around the main hall, at a height of twelve feet, was a gallery sixteen feet in width, which was reached by broad stairways at the further end of the hall. The interior of the building was tastefully decorated with evergreens, flowers and bunting, entirely concealing the undressed pine lumber of which it was constructed.

The capacity of the dining room was sufficient for the accommodation of fifteen hundred people. Hundreds of gas jets illuminated every corner of the building by night.

During the progress of the fair, the 5th battery, portions of the 3d, 6th, 12th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 37th and 38th, and what remained of the 21st, 24th, 25th and 32d regiments returned to Milwaukee, also a number of Minnesota regiments; part of these troops were sent to Madison to be mustered out, and part remained. All were refreshed with food, and many were lodged

at the fair building upon their arrival and during their stay in the city.

Many of the counties, towns and villages throughout the state coöperated in the enterprise of the fair, sending delegates to superintend and dispose of their donations. Every department of commerce, manufactures and agriculture were represented, being presided over by reliable persons in the various branches.

The Fine Arts Department represented the best art in the country, and was the first attempt to exhibit a collection of paintings and statuary in Wisconsin. The Scientific Department contained a large number of botanical, geological and zoölogical specimens, which were voted, during the progress of the fair, to an educational institution within the state. Conspicuous for completeness and attractiveness was the Musical Department and Department of Arms and Trophies. One of the most interesting and praiseworthy features was the Department of the Public Schools, presided over by the children under the direction of their teachers.

The editorial committee published in the fair building a daily paper called "The Home Fair Journal," devoted to the interests of the fair, and containing reports of committees, circulars, acknowledgments, etc. A portion of the space in the Journal was devoted to original articles of a miscellaneous character, and aimed to be, in some sort, an exponent of the literary taste and ability of the people of the state, as well as their liberality.

The German Department embraced many interesting features,

prominent among which was the Holland kitchen. A large tent belonging to the State Agricultural Society was borrowed for the occasion, occupying a space next the building, in which were exhibited birds, animals, etc., one of the attractions of which was the "War Eagle," the bird that for three years accompanied the Eighth Wisconsin regiment.

It is impossible to speak in detail of the various departments which lent interest and attractiveness to the fair, or of the many entertainments given for its benefit by interested friends throughout the state, both during its progress and prior to its opening.

Through the untiring efforts of the ladies composing the board, the wise counsel and active coöperation of the advisory committee of gentlemen, and the generous support of the public generally, the fair proved in every sense all its projectors had hoped. The cash profits, after all expenses were paid, amounted to over one hundred and ten thousand dollars, the bulk of which sum was subsequently paid over to the National Asylum Commissioners, thereby securing the location at Milwaukee of one of the National Homes. After several months of unabated labor in closing up official accounts, accrediting moneys received and making reports, purchasing a site, offering proposals, and accepting plans and specifications for the erection of the permanent home, the officers, wearied by labors well and cheerfully performed, and feeling assured that the object for which the Home was established were now secured, withdrew from the

board. After this, frequent changes were made in the direction of the Home, until July 5, 1866, when a formal proposition was made to the managers of the National Asylum, to turn over all moneys, lands and property, to be used in the purchase of a site and constructing of an asylum in or near the city of Milwaukee.

After sundry preliminaries extending over a period of several months, the board of commissioners accepted the proposition. April 30, 1867, the last meeting of the association was held. The following July, 1867, a deed in due and legal form conveyed to the board of commissioners of the National Asylum for Disabled Soldiers all the real estate of which the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home was legally in possession; also all bonds, moneys and other property remaining in the treasury. Up to which date, 31,650 soldiers had been entertained at the Home. Over one thousand received medical treatment, and of this number but twenty-eight died, most of whom were in the last stages of their disease when admitted into the Home.

During the three years' existence of the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home the institution was conducted entirly by women, aided by an advisory committee of gentlemen, all of whose services were gratuitous; the superintendent and matron only being salaried. During a portion of the last year of its existence, however, the attending physicians and nurses were paid; previous to which time these offices were gratuitously performed by the lady managers and city physicians.

The board of managers of the National Home (Northwestern

Branch) in compliance with their pledges and in consideration of the moneys and property received from the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home, proceeded with all reasonable despatch to purchase grounds and erect suitable buildings thereon for the accommodation of the soldiers having a legitimate claim on their bounty. The manifest comfort and happiness of the inmates fully attest that the pledges made the "Wisconsin Soldiers' Home Association" have been more than faithfully kept.

The situation of the Northwestern Branch of the Soldiers' Asylum is the finest in the country (see note), and the truly magnificent grounds, with the commodious buildings thereon, stand a monument to the glories of that triumph which saved a Nation and preserved to us and them a home.

NOTE. — "The northwestern branch, under command of Gen. EDWARD W. HINCKS, is getting a popularity with the disabled soldiers hitherto unknown. It has been crowded to its capacity during the past winter, although the board of managers have an authoritative hope that a considerable portion of the beneficiaries will find employment during the summer. The situation of the Home buildings attached to this branch is the finest in the country. The park is excelled by none except it may be Central Park, New York," — *Extract from Report of Board of Managers to Congress, for the year 1873.*

SELECTIONS FROM RECORDS

OF

CENTENNIAL CLUB INAUGURATIONS, REUNIONS AND CELEBRATIONS OF NATIONAL ANNIVERSARIES,

BY

THE WOMEN OF WISCONSIN.

"Love and Faith in each other, our Country and our God."

The Four Lakes of Madison.

Four limpid lakes - four Naiades
Or Sylvan deities are these,
In flowing robes of azure dressed;
Four lovely handmaids, that uphold
Their shining mirrors, rimmed with gold,
To the fair City in the West.

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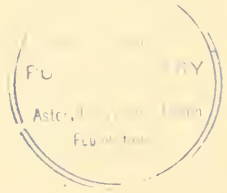
By day, the courbers of the Sun
Drink of these waters, as they run
Their swift, diurnal round on high;
By night, the constellations glow
Far down their hollow deeps below,
And glimmer in another sky.



SELECTIONS

FROM

Centennial Records.

In February, 1875, Mrs. J. G. Thorp of Madison received the appointment of chairman for the state of Wisconsin, from Mrs. E. D. Gillespie, President of the Women's National Centennial Executive Committee of Philadelphia. Mrs. Thorp's first official act was to issue the following

APPEAL TO THE WOMEN OF WISCONSIN, AND IN THEIR NAME, TO THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE.

Women of Wisconsin: — The voice of our approaching National Anniversary calls to *us*. Let us, for the time, subordinate individual interests, in obedience to the summons. We return to the homes of our youth, with our children and our children's children, to celebrate the golden wedding days, bearing with us our choicest offerings; and we gather there, fresh fruits from the Tree of Life. Let us in like manner, rekindle the holy sentiments of truth and loyalty to our mother country upon the glowing altar of our national nativity, on the 4th of July, 1876!

Let willing hearts and ready hands attest our gratitude, for the place we occupy and the name we bear, among the nations of the earth. The worth and magnitude of such considerations will lift us to higher levels, and secure to us broader and stronger thought. In the plentitude of conscious ability, we have hitherto felt ignorant and helpless in many ways, for the want of that strength, which is the outgrowth of union and systematized action.

The time is indicated, the opportunity furnished, for us to avail ourselves of this power and influence.

Are we not ready and eager to respond, each in our own way, as God has given us the ability?

Every woman, who has intelligently read the "signs of the times," will in her own heart, comprehend somewhat, the meaning and tendency of this movement, as an indication of Providence.

Every such woman, doubtless, feels that some new ground must be gained, in reference to the education and habits of women, before we realize the full type of true American womanhood.

Amid the agitation and conflict upon this subject, it is difficult to discern clearly and definitely.

Between the two extremes, one represented by public debate and assertion, the other by frivolity and weakness, there is, doubtless, sound middle ground which may be occupied with safety and advantage.

Women guided by pure and healthful instincts will naturally find this golden mean for themselves, if they decide to think and act harmoniously upon the subject.

Love of home, in its family and national sense, is a true incentive. Those who appreciate the blessings which flow to them through these channels will not ignore it. In this regard, there is no division of interests between men and women.

Gentlemen of the Legislature: — Understanding, as you do, the influence of the wife and mother in your own homes, we ask of you a practical illustration of that estimate, as women of the state of our mutual birthright or adoption.

The same arguments that are applicable to the appropriation of money, for the general interests of the Exhibition we conceive to be equally applicable to the special department represented by the "Woman's Centennial Executive Committee." It is to be used for the same purposes, and its expenditure provided for in the same manner, by state and local committees.

No compensation is to be paid for services rendered.

Expenses necessarily incurred in the discharge of duties are alone provided for.

Accounts will be carefully inspected by suitable and experienced persons appointed by the State Committee.

The expenditure of money appropriated by the legislature shall be open to their investigation. As sharers and workers with you in all that pertains to the honor and well being of the family, the state and the Nation, we ask you to set aside for our special use the sum of one thousand dollars, or whatever you may conceive to be a suitable amount for the women of the state which you have the honor to

represent, who are requested by the National Committee to occupy a place, and bear a part in the forthcoming International Exhibition.

MRS. J. G. THORP,
Chairman of Woman's Centennial Executive Committee.
MADISON, Wis.

MRS. JOHN BASCOM, *Secretary.*

The following response was received from the governor of the state:

STATE OF WISCONSIN, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
MADISON, *Feb. 26, 1875.*

TO MRS. J. G. THORP, MRS. J. C. GREGORY AND MRS. JOHN BASCOM, *Officers of the Woman's Centennial Executive Committee.*

LADIES: — I have received a copy of your appeal to the legislature for aid in your effort to secure to the women of Wisconsin that honorable position which the National Committee have invited you to occupy in the forthcoming International Exhibition.

History concedes that the cause of the American Colonies could not have withstood the hardships of a long and exhausting war without the patriotic self denial and moral heroism exhibited by the women of the Revolution. I am equally convinced that those blessings of free government we now enjoy as the fruit of that contest, a hundred years ago, can never be preserved from the perils of a prosperous peace without the moral and refining influences of the family circle, and the inspiring example of those noble and virtuous wives and mothers of our land, who have especially in their charge the education of the young and the care of the old. With such a responsibility and mission, I cannot doubt the right of the women of Wisconsin to the recognition you seek for them in the forthcoming celebration of our National Birthday, and you have the assurance of my hearty sympathy and coöperation in your application for public aid, to further that noble purpose, and the small amount asked for, I hope, will be generously accorded. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. R. TAYLOR.

The legislature of Wisconsin appropriated the sum of $1,000 for the use of the Woman's State Centennial Executive Committee, which had been in the meantime organized. This committee held weekly meetings, issued formulas for auxiliary asso-

ciations, and recommended the inauguration of centennial clubs throughout the state. The following is the

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE FIRST CENTENNIAL CLUB,

Under the Auspices of the Executive Committee, at the Capital City.

In response to invitations issued by Mrs. J. G. Thorp, chairman of the Woman's State Centennial Committee, a large concourse of ladies and gentlemen assembled at her residence last evening, March 30, to organize a Woman's Centennial Club. The company were animated and enthusiastic, each face wearing a bright and interested expression; conversation had an easy flow, because there was a theme to talk about more inspiring than the compliments and generalities which form the beginning, middle and end of topics at a fashionable party. After moving from room to room of this "ideal home," as one lady expressed it, and admiring its graceful and harmonious appointments, the company was called to order by Gen. Atwood, of the National Centennial Commission, who imparted the enthusiasm which was no new fire in his own breast, by the following interesting and pertinent remarks:

"In behalf of the centennial commission, of which he was a member, he desired to express congratulations to the ladies for the evidences here presented, that the women of Wisconsin were awake to the importance of the grand event that is to take place in 1876, and he thanked them for the honor of being called upon to aid in the organization of a Woman's State Centennial Club. Our nation is approaching the close of the first hundred years of its existence; and it is known that arrangements are in progress for commemorating that event, by holding an international exposition in Philadelphia, the real *homestead* of the Union, where the nation was born, and where stands the old hall in which the immortal Declaration of Independence was signed, and where still hangs the old bell that pro-

claimed liberty to the people. It is a fitting place and a fitting time for such an enterprise. Under a law of congress, a Centennial Commission was organized three years ago, consisting of representatives from each state and territory in the Union, to which was committed the duty of superintending the general arrangements for this exposition. From history, we learn that *man* was created before woman. It was soon found, no doubt, that he would prove a great *failure* if left *alone;* and *woman* was created as a helper. Ever since that time women have been found active and efficient coworkers in all great and good enterprises. Nothing of vital importance has transpired in the land, unless it received, in some way, the aid of women. Especially has this been the case in our own country. During the revolutionary war, the women took a prominent part. If they did not go into the field of battle, they encouraged their fathers, brothers, sweethearts and friends to do so; and *they* molded bullets from pewter ware, for them to use in fighting battles for freedom. In our late war, we all remember what efficient aid the women of the country rendered in saving the Union. It is reasonable to presume that, but for the hearty coöperation of women, we should never have had in the first place a *free republic* here; and having obtained it, but for *their* aid the Union would have been broken up in the late struggle. During the first year of the labors of the National Centennial Commission, there was slow progress; the work was attended with many discouragements. While the enterprise impressed itself upon the members as one of immense magnitude, it was difficult to arouse the attention of the people generally to a proper sense of its importance. Previous to the meeting a year afterwards, the true spirit of the matter had been caught up by the women of Philadelphia, and an organization of noble and patriotic women had been effected in that city. The influence of this movement was at once felt in the commission; its members were stimulated and encouraged by it, and from that time excellent progress has been made in the noble work of preparation for the international exposition. No doubt is now entertained but this will prove the grandest event of the century, and the most complete exposition of the kind the world has ever known. The Yankee nation is proverbial for doing whatever it undertakes in a manner *superior* to that in which things of a like character have been done before. Our people feel that he who has the last story to tell has a decided advantage; and having the experience of other expositions before them, they will profit by it, and get up a better one than any that have preceded it. That such will be the case with our exposition in 1876, there can be no doubt. The influence of the Philadelphia women's organization has spread throughout the land; and now auxiliary organizations are in working order in many of the states; and the object of this meeting is to inaugurate a women's club for the

state of Wisconsin; and there is abundant evidence before us that it will prove an auspicious beginning of a great work.

"Wisconsin has immense resources to present for exhibition, and she cannot afford to fail in having them represented. She *must* act: and there was now every reason to feel that proper action would be taken to give her a full representation at Philadelphia. The legislature has provided for a State Board of Centennial Managers, and the governor has appointed most excellent men upon it. It will organize next week, when it is hoped efficient work will be commenced. The women are aroused and at work, and success is assured. No state can boast of better women than Wisconsin; and there can be no fear but *their* department will be well filled. With *their* stimulus and aid to the men, Wisconsin will assume its proper place in the grand centennial exposition in 1876. In the next meeting of the National Commission, he should feel fully justified in reporting that such will be the case."

Gen. Atwood, apparently delighted that others were ready to help him bear the burden he had so long and bravely carried alone, then, by the request of Mrs. Thorp, read the general plan drawn up by the Woman's State Committee, of which she is chairman. More than fifty persons, ladies and gentlemen, at once signed their names to these articles.

President Bascom, of the State University, was then called on for remarks, which he made in his own graceful and fluent style.

Mrs. Prof. J. D. Butler then read the following paper, prepared by her husband, who was absent from town:

WOMAN'S RELATIONS TO THE CENTENARY OF INDEPENDENCE.

"A woman with a spoon can throw out faster than a man can throw in with a shovel." Some sage devised this old saw to express his astonishment at woman's having so much influence while wielding so little power. The same phenomenon has induced various nations to vote their ablest women witches, and hence to drown or burn them. From the same fact, influence is a maximum where power is a minimum, some of us feel that most women who demand their rights are seeking what they have, like one looking around for his glasses when they are on his nose, or just above it. The truth is that men

think, but women are *inspired*, and only those who are inspired can inspire. Like the inspired book, they now, more than ever, have free course, and being themselves glorified, they are become the life of life. "I never yet saw the man, how wise, how noble, young, how rarely featured, but they will spell him backward, yea turn him inside out." America has done most for women, and women have done most for America. Woman *discovered* America. The jewels of ISABELLA nerved the hand of COLUMBUS so that after endeavors, often baffled, but still renewed, he "allured to brighter worlds and led the way." Five centuries before COLUMBUS, GUDRID had persuaded her husband, the Scandinavian Thorfin, to take her across the Atlantic and start the first settlement in Vinland. Eighteen wives and eleven maidens adventured to New England Plymouth among the hundred first comers thither. The plantation there, but for their presence, would have been a failure, as fifteen male colonies along our coast had already proved. All the married men would have died for lack of nursing, or at least of hasty pudding, and all the single men would have run away in quest of sweethearts. In establishing our independence also, women played no mean part. That independence was not declared by old bachelors, but by married men, who may be presumed to have acted under the — I will not say dictation — but rather the inspiration of their wives. Among all the signers of the immortal Declaration, the man of most mountainous will was JOHN ADAMS. But JOHN ADAMS clearly acted under feminine influence. His instructions from his wife are still extant in black and white. Under date of the second of March this queen bade him do what he did on the fourth of July. She had just before berated him as a "spaniel, because having been so often spurned by Britain, he would still fawn." A dozen years ago, our national existence was under the dread arbitrament of war. We are all witnesses how largely that life then owed its salvation to women. Who has forgotten their work in the Christian and in the sanitary commissions? Young Unionists, also, like the old Continentals, were invincible, because fighting for flags given them by hands more than angelic. Our centenary is to be the grand gathering together of all nations which Babel scattered. The hundred year feasts of the Romans were exclusive. No slave, no foreigner was allowed any part in them. All slaves who shall approach our jubilee, will become free; all foreigners will find fraternization. But women shared in the Roman solemnity. As many maidens as young men joined in its choral songs and dances. Our need of women's aid is as much greater than the Roman's as our women have been lifted higher than theirs by our laws, our schools, our society, and by our religion. Thus, the logic of facts proves that our centennial commemoration will turn out deformed, unfinished, sent into this

breathing world scarce half made up, if unaided by women. A womanless centenary, or one in which women are mere lookers on — its emblem is Eden without Eve, a poem, drama, or novel without any of her daughters — a year without springtime — a flower without fragrance — an altar without a God!

"But history shall still repeat itself. What American mothers have been in the dead past, their daughters will approve themselves in the living present, making the most of that *one* day that shall recall in the long lapse from youth to age, no other like itself. May they, one and all, survive our centenary, and then may theirs be the old age of the grape which wrinkles and sweetens into the raisin, till they shall have become themselves centenarian."

Much delightful and soul inspiring music was discoursed at intervals all the evening, by Mrs. Ole Bull and Mr. J. S. Smith on the piano, and exquisite songs were listened to from Mrs. John C. Spooner, Mrs. Oakley, Miss Chittenden, Mr. Kuehn and Mr. Chas. Pickard.

At half-past nine "the cup which cheers but not inebriates" and delicate refreshments were served. The good, old fashioned, patriotic hymn, "God Bless Our Native Land," lined off in the good, old fashioned way, was sung with relish and spirit, and the company gradually dispersed with the universal feeling that the occasion had been one of delightful social union.

Thus has been inaugurated the First Women's Centennial Club, at the city of Madison, the capital of this state of our love and pride.

That this enterprise will succeed, and that gloriously, inciting the best and holiest inspirations and deeds of which woman is capable, no one who was present at the formation of this "Women's Centennial Club," can for a moment doubt.

Mrs. J. D. Butler,
Secretary.

Madison, *March 31, 1875.*

The Secretary of the State Centennial Club, being requested to write to JOHN G. WHITTIER for a Centenary Ode, which could be set to music and sung at the monthly meetings of the Club, received the following letter:

"AMESBURY, *10, 4th Mo., 1875.*

"MY DEAR MRS. BUTLER:—I feel honored by the request of thy letter in behalf of the Women's Centennial Club of the city of Madison, but I dare not promise to comply with it, as the state of my health and the imperative advice of my physician compel me to avoid engagements of this nature. But I cannot close my note without expressing my hearty sympathy with your movement. It is all important with the complete success of the great Centennial. Without the full and generous cöoperation of woman, the Centennial would be "Adam without Eve," to use thy own felicitous expression. I am very truly thy friend,

"JOHN G. WHITTIER."

SECOND SOCIAL REUNION.

The favorable auspices under which the Women's State Centennial Club was inaugurated one month ago, at Mrs. J. G. THORP'S, could hardly have been better seconded than they were Friday evening at the residence of Mrs. DAVID ATWOOD, President of the Club.

Our association may congratulate itself upon the generous hospitality which has cradled the infancy of our enterprise, and admitted it to the penetralia of bright and cheerful homes. Perhaps, not even at the "house warming" of the General's spacious new residence, so fresh in the memory of all, was there a more brilliant assemblage of Madison's own citizens, while representatives from sister cities graced the occasion. Mrs. WRIGHT, President of the Beloit Club, Mrs. DAVIS, Treasurer, Mrs. INGERSOLL, Secretary, attended by Mrs. WATERMAN and Mrs. STOCKING of Beloit, and Miss SCHLEY of Milwaukee, hon-

ored us by their presence, and though the crowded programme of arranged exercises did not admit of a public recognition of their kind favor, the State Club were individually most grateful for the fraternization thus granted.

A pleasant exchange of friendly greetings having passed, the large company were hushed to order by the enrapturing strains of music. Mr. J. S. Smith, presiding at the instrument, played the prelude and accompaniment of M. Keller's new Centennial song, "Heaven-born Freedom," Mrs. Frank W. Oakley pronouncing its patriotic words in her thrilling tones, Miss Kitty Chittenden, Messrs. Kuehn and Pickard supplementing in full chorus.

Gen. Atwood then announced that he had, on that day, requested Mrs. Thorp, Chairman of the Executive Committee, to prepare a report of what had already been accomplished in the state, and her son, Mr. Joseph Thorp, read:

"The Women's State Centennial Committee have the honor to report as follows: An increasing interest in the Centennial work throughout the state is the result with which we have to congratulate ourselves and those interested in our cause, after two months' active labor. We are in correspondence with some fifty women in different localities, in reference to securing chairmen and the adoption of measures touching this interest. We have now on our list twenty-five names of persons who have accepted the position of chairman, and are actively at work organizing clubs, and stimulating interest for an honorable representation at Philadelphia in 1876. We recognize a decided change in the character of our recent responses, when we compare them with those we received when we first started in this enterprise. We are much indebted for this change to the influence which the report of the first social meeting of our State Club produced. The social element must be aroused, if the women are to be enlisted. That is the sphere in which their best powers are fostered and cherished, and from that must emanate their most successful labors. Mrs. Colt of Milwaukee has accepted the position of chairman for that city. Mrs. Wm. P. Lynde, the representative woman of Wisconsin in public affairs, says: 'Mrs. Colt was delighted with the

report of your club meeting, and feels that the enthusiasm manifested there must be contagious.' Miss PEET, Chairman of Beloit, says: 'I have the pleasure to report to you that our preparatory meeting yesterday was a success. We met in Temperance Hall, entering the door beneath a fine transparency — 1776, CENTENNIAL, 1876. The hall was decorated with flags and portraits of our national heroes, mottoes, etc.' Miss PEET adds an enthusiastic account of their organization, fifty-two names being affixed to the constitution, and limits her number of members to one hundred, before gentlemen were invited to join, and her final estimate is at least five hundred members of the Beloit Club. A grand opening is announced for the 10th of May, in the Opera House, at which the State Executive Committee is invited, and they, with the Commissioner, will participate in the exercises of that occasion. Mrs. GRAY of Darlington, says: 'I am well pleased that the women of the State Committee should select me as Chairman of Darlington. Since the conception of this magnificent enterprise, I have hoped to attend, and have been looking about to discover what of the useful and beautiful we have in La Fayette county,' and then goes on to mention mineralogical and botanical specimens which she thinks can be artistically arranged for the Exhibition. A letter from Mrs. LYNDE to the Chairman of the Executive Committee, says: 'I wish you would come in and see us and give us a little of the courage and enthusiasm of which you have so much.' These are but a few of our recent letters. Almost every mail brings us several, and we are kept very busy answering questions, making suggestions, securing able, energetic and enthusiastic women to take hold with us and make this labor one of pleasure and love. We trust that before the 10th of May, the time when the State Committee are invited to Beloit, the city of Madison will be alive and ready to swell the current of Centennial enthusiasm. It will be seen that the State Centennial Chairman and Committee are fully employed in state work, for which the State Social Club is their circulating medium. Its doings are sure to stimulate social interest throughout the state. While we feel in the closest sympathy with the same cause in our own city we cannot be held responsible for city interest or city work.

"There is a city organization, able, willing, earnest, to inaugurate and aid. All that Madison people will, shall be done; and we trust their efforts will be seconded and their hearts encouraged by sympathy and effort on the part of our citizens. We learn that the 'Red, White and Blue Club' of Madison, with appropriate emblems and badges, will soon unfurl their colors to the popular breeze, and the capital city will give the key note which will be caught up and reëchoed to the farthest limits of Wisconsin.

"Let us be ready one and all, for the 99th 4th of July, and let its patriotic

enthusiasm swell until it culminates at Philadelphia, one hundred years from the day when our Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence.

"Mrs. J. G. THORP,
"*Chairman State Centennial Committee.*

"*April 30, 1875.*"

Succeeding the report, it was announced that Col. WILLIAM F. VILAS would read a paper prepared by our own State Executive Chairman. This was listened to with deep attention, and the round of applause which followed when the Colonel's sonorous voice ceased, sufficiently attested the appreciation with which it was received. It should meet the eye of every woman in the land, that she may rejoice in the prophetic vision of the good time coming.

Many gentlemen as well as ladies, remarkable for conservative views, expressed decided approbation of the paper, as well as admiration for the themes suggested.

Women of Wisconsin: Those of us who are actively engaged in Centennial work throughout the state desire that generous and kindly interpretations be awarded us in connection with this enterprise, as we have not the benefit of experience or precedents to aid us.

Personal and social relations, as well as accepted conventionalities, sink into comparative insignificance in the presence of this grand national idea, whose labors are those of love.

The aims it contemplates are broad enough to dissipate every threatening cloud of social, political or local prejudice.

Freedom from these and kindred sentiments, it is our first effort to attain, that the restrictions and embarrassments which are incident to their existence may be avoided.

Let us, as women of our beloved state and nation, not as city, church or neighborhood women, consider the relation we individually bear to this, our common cause, in grateful tribute to our common country. Aye more: let us launch out upon this broad current of patriotic enthusiasm, trusting to the God of Nations for the wisdom of our counsels and the worth of our inspirations.

We are now, for the *first time invited*—rather than *impelled* by necessity, as in the past—to aid in a national movement.

Let us not give a reluctant or tardy response, for there is a deeper, more tender meaning, than we at first recognize in its voice.

We shall find no barriers of opposition or prejudice in our way, unless we create them by our weakness and perversity.

We did not hesitate or shrink, when appeals were made to our sympathies and efforts, from the suffering and the dying, though they came from the battle field and the crowded hospital.

The strength of womanhood as expressed in national ways, has hitherto been as the strength of martyrdom, aroused by her devotion to an imperiled cause.

American women have suffered and accomplished for their country as spontaneously and naturally as they are ever wont to do for their families and friends, because their services were needed. They are still needed to save, to hold and to aid in uplifting all that is valuable in our national civilization.

It has not been our *mission* to plan campaigns, to fight battles, or to wear the laurels of victory. It has been our *experience* to bear in suffering, to rear through sacrifice and to yield in agony, the men who wrought these noble deeds. It has been too often our sad duty to go with these dear ones to the portals of the unseen, and to point beyond, with a faith that takes hold upon immortality.

To turn back in sorrow and desolation and quietly take up the burdens of dismembered households, or help eke out maimed and decrepid lives for those who *have been* our strength and pride.

All this has been patiently and honorably borne, with meagre compensation and limited appreciation; proving that it is stimulus, not capacity, that is lacking to bring women to a proper estimate of their dignity and duty.

What they *cannot* or *will not do* for themselves by *effort* or *influence*, they must *endure* to see illy done.

Enough perhaps has been said in reference to the general objects and the preparation of articles for the Women's Department of the Centennial Exhibition.

We now wish to call attention to a higher object, namely, the improvement of the domestic and social condition of American women, which we conceive to be included in the general idea. We would not ignore responsibility, as we desire to escape penalty in this regard.

The laws of God are unerring in their operation, and are not hindered or modified by our recognition or rejection. Therefore, if women have made it conventional and suitable for lack of better stimulus, to spend the larger portion of their time in dress and pleasure, dissipating physical and mental forces in these pursuits, it is reasonable to expect that God will bring them to healthier aims, through the discipline of suffering.

The too frequent exhibition of enfeebled energies and demoralized character is bringing the earnest of our sex to the point of serious deliberation. The balance of conviction is gradually turning in wiser directions. The natural timidity of woman makes her averse to change and fearful of extremes. That modesty which is her crown of glory and excellence is often under the influence of wrong standards and unjust interpretations, made to represent her weakness and unworthiness. This, we can quietly overcome, as we cordially embrace opportunities which include the necessity of well concerted action for their success.

We need to learn primary lessons, as we are all unskilled, because inexperienced workers in public affairs. The preparation work incident to an honorable representation at our Centennial furnishes common ground for every woman in our nation who has a desire to aid in its commemoration.

Its labors conduce to the highest interest of home and social life, giving impulse to mental, moral and æsthetic culture, by calling for their best practical results.

It is not enough that we exhibit works of art, culinary skill and handiwork. Our excellence is acknowledged in these departments, and we have daily evidence of all the appreciation we can conveniently appropriate in *some of them!*

We need more to test our skill in other ways, and to this end, we need mutual aid and encouragement.

We need the aid of combined influence to dissipate the power of false standards, in the foremost ranks of which apppears the destructive tyranny of Fashion. Here, we all stand convicted, to a greater or less extent, wasting time, strength and ability worthy a better service.

What we gain in superabundance of decoration, we lose in healthful, physical beauty and still more in the desecration of mental and spiritual powers, whose worth and endurance are to our finite conceptions immeasurable.

It is universally *acknowledged* that the demands of the toilet are out of all reasonable proportion, while it is also *understood* that this is in obedience to the mandates of what is called "*good society.*" The axiom that "it is better to be out of the world, than out of the fashion," is received as a primary article in our domestic codes. The avenues of relief from this despotism are closely barred by custom and prejudice, until it seems that nothing less than a tidal wave of national inspiration can bear us upward and onward to brighter fields, where lie the undiscovered treasures of feminine accomplishments, destined for coming generations.

We have gone from the struggles and hardships of revolutionary days to the opposite extreme of luxury and dissipation. Let us pause and think how we can

gain a new starting point within the circle of the next revolving century, which shall secure to us a grateful remembrance from the women of the next Centennial.

In the light of what we might be, and are not, there is more to hope for, than to fear, from change. The feminine side of life is, as yet, to a great extent undeveloped, and the steps to its attainment must be gradual and carefully taken. Whatever women are called upon to do and to be, it is their privilege *to do and be as women*. This position once well understood and established, it will be found that there is no sphere of life where the aid and influence of woman is not needed to make that sphere rounded and complete.

Beauty, in all its varied developments, is an essential element of womanly character, to be indulged and enjoyed in ways distinctively feminine. To be cherished as the outgrowth of her most delicate and refined instincts. We need not ignore beauty, to secure convenience and utility in dress.

Ascetic severity and plainness are as uncomely and unattractive in the household, as would be an untinted rose, or an unpainted lily in the *parterre*. Natural conditions of earth, air, moisture and sunshine, unfold the wonders of leaf, bud and blossom.

Obedience to natural, instead of arbitrary and conventional laws, tints the budding, unfolding and ripening years of womanhood, with the inimitible beauty and freshness of health, and crowns her autumn years with the fruitage of noble deeds.

No such compensations come to us in the channels which Fashion has opened to the households of our land. Disease, disability and frivolity inevitably follow in the train of her influences.

The queens of the *Bois de Boulogne*, as they are recognized day by day in their carriages of state upon this favorite drive, are the representative women of the world in the realm of Fashion. Holding and wielding the purse strings of royalty and diplomacy, assiduously served by *modistes* of artistic merit; it is more than weakness, it is *stupidity*, for women in the midst of earnest life — bearing the relations which God has established and blessed — to imitate, or receive from their hands ever so remotely, standards for use or decoration.

Why should not our country-women be known by a simpler, more natural and more beautiful style, worthy the name of an American dress.

If we shrink from the idea, it is not because there is not merit in the conception, but because of the absurdities which have from time to time been set afloat, it would seem, for the purpose of creating a sensation, and blocking the wheels of healthful reform.

Influential women in our large literary and commercial cities are taking the lead, in their efforts to give wiser impulse and better tone in this respect.

The women of our own state will not be backward in their expressions of sympathy and interest in this movement. We feel confident that *some woman*, or some *body of women*, whether from the Bay State, or the Badger State, it matters not, will develop the happy thought of an artistic American dress, which shall be accepted at our Centennial Exhibition, as worthy a National recognition. The reward of such a labor will be second only to his, who broke the fetters of a *grosser*, but not more destructive, slavery, and opened the pathway to untrammeled manhood.

That we may not be misunderstood, we will define what we *do not mean* by an American dress: We do *not mean* a *Bloomer* dress, or *any sort* of unwomanly dress; we include the idea of drapery, as suited to the propriety and elegance of womanly apparel. We simply mean, a more general uniformity and simplicity in style, as well suited to the health, taste and convenience of women — to be brought out in some definite and practical way — as is the general mode adopted by men, for their health and convenience.

We desire this that we may avoid the innumerable perplexities and the unceasing demands upon time, thought, health and purse, for which we receive no proportionate return.

We cannot now suggest the mode, but we doubt not it will reveal itself in connection with other valuable and beautiful inspirations, which shall be the outgrowth of our Centennial awakening.

The present burden of each recurring season in households well established socially is, how shall the feminine part of the family wardrobe be modeled and remodeled, into conformity with fashionable proprieties? To this end, ingenuity is taxed, health sacrificed and money lavished. The mother or eldest daughter is often required to make inconvenient journeys to large cities, laden with commissions touching this momentous subject. Among other duties, she is to search out and confer with conceited *modistes*, who hold the keys to these hidden mysteries.

The results of this expenditure are innumerable trains and demi-trains, to be skillfully engineered through heated drawing rooms and crowded thoroughfares, during the freshness and novelty of their ephemeral existence. Multitudes of drapings and loopings to be carefully manipulated, as they are deftly moulded into burdens for feminine backs.

Coming naturally under the general appellation of deformities, they become classical, as they are introduced by names furnished from the nomenclature of fashion.

Headaches and heartaches, which are the portion of unsuccessful votaries at

this shrine. costly offerings made from the aggregate of family comfort and dignity, who can estimate?

The weight of burdens lifted, and the value of forces turned into wiser channels, by the adoption of a more uniform and permanent style, the mothers and daughters of the next generation can properly judge.

Under this *régime*, distinctions in dress will be based upon the quality and value of material, enhanced by the idea of family association. Fabrics and trimmings, worthless in excess, reduced in quantity to the amount of reasonable use; family jewels and articles, intrinsic in value, will more frequently become heirlooms in our princely, American homes. And each social strata will accumulate substantial wealth, both material and mental, for its better development and more enduring prosperity.

Women of Wisconsin, let us be the first to sign *this "declaration of our independence,"* rejoicing to honor and memorialize the Centennial Anniversary of our beloved mother, with the laurels of individual and National achievement.

The niche we are invited to fill upon this occasion is comparatively small, but it is *ours;* and, *as ours*, should be garlanded with designs of utility and beauty.

May it also be a MEMORIAL NICHE, where the cenotaph of entombed follies shall be covered with the living tendrils of a new and more excellent life, for the women of our commonwealth and our Nation. A. C. THORP.

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At 10 o'clock, the company were invited into the ample dining hall, which forms so attractive a feature of Gen. ATWOOD's hospitable home. The table was gracefully laid, and decorated with flowers, and the supper, while excellent, conformed to that simplicity and limit of variety which is the prescribed regulation for all our reunions. Reässembled in the drawing room, Gen. ATWOOD, invoking the gift of song for those who supposed themselves devoid of this power of expression, called for a united voice in the following original Centennial Hymn, by one of our poets. Copies being furnished, the "new home" received a baptism of song, which set the seal of consecration to it and our noble cause:

The Nation's Jubilee draws near,
Let all the world attend!

Our thoughts embrace its circling sphere,
Our prayers to God ascend —

That He will make the coming day,
A grand memorial time:
Let every heart its tribute pay,
From every land and clime.

Where hate hath ruled, love shall preside,
Once slaves — *all now are free;*
We stand together, side by side,
In blest fraternity.

Our fathers, o'er the swelling tide,
Sustained by faith and right —
The scorn of monarchs in their pride —
Brought here fair freedom's light.

What she hath wrought, let all behold,
On her Centennial day!
No blessings bought with princely gold,
'Twas God revealed the way.

Our country and our liberty,
Hurrah, hurrah, hurrah!
Her emblems wave o'er every sea —
God guides America!

All singing to the tune of Coronation.

This closed the second social meeting of the Women's State Centennial Club of Wisconsin, and if the feelings of all may be gauged by that of many who have given utterance, the evening was one to be marked with a white stone in our calendar, and assured us that the motto of our State — "Forward!" — is also the motto of our Club, and that only the highest social and National advantages can flow from our monthly reunions.

Mrs. J. D. Butler, *Secretary W. S. C. C.*

To Mrs. David Atwood, *President W. S. C. C.*

Madison, *May 1, 1875.*

OFFICIAL REPORT.

[From the Beloit Free Press.]

CENTENNIAL CEREMONIES — MOST SUCCESSFUL INAUGURATION OF THE WOMEN'S CENTENNIAL CLUB — DECORATIONS, SPEECHES, MUSIC, TABLEAUX, ETC.

The ladies who have been some weeks laboring energetically and enthusiastically for the organization of a centennial club in Beloit, brought their well laid plans to a brilliant culmination on Monday of this week. Distinguished guests were expected from abroad to grace the occasion with their presence, and assist in the inaugural ceremonies, and a large welcoming delegation of citizens, including nearly all the members of the college were present at the depot upon the arrival of the noon train from Madison, whence most of the guests came. Among the visitors were Gen. David Atwood, wife and daughter, Mrs. J. G. Thorp, Mrs. Gov. Taylor, Mrs. Pres. Bascom, Mrs. F. W. Oakley, Mrs. Prof. Kerr, Mrs. Hoyt, Mrs. Williams, from Madison, and Miss Sill, of Rockford. Upon alighting from the cars, the guests were taken in carriages to the homes of prominent citizens.

At an early hour in the evening Goodwin's Opera House was packed from orchestra chairs to the last tier of seats in the balcony, with an expectant multitude whose expectations were destined to be more than satisfied by the well arranged and successfully executed programme. The Opera House was very appropriately decorated with numerous flags of various sizes, protraits of Washington, Martha Washington, Lincoln, and Grant, pictures of the great centennial buildings now in process of erection at Philadelphia, and appropriate dates, mottoes, shields and

a real American eagle. Thirteen airily dressed young ladies represented the thirteen original states, and Mr. Charles Messer and Mrs. C. B. Salmon, dressed in elegant costumes, well personated General and Mrs. Washington in their younger days. These with the invited guests, the executive committee and the officers of the club, occupied the stage, a large choir and the orchestra sat in front of it, and the St. Thomas' Temperance Band discoursed cheerful music from the outer balcony.

The music was in charge of Mrs. Prof Allen, and to her well known energy and ability in this direction was its uniform excellence in a very great measure due. Mrs. Oakley entranced the great audience, as she always does, with the sweetness of her voice, her perfect enunciation and pleasing manner on the stage. Miss Helm was the host which she always is when at the piano; the choruses were prompt and harmonious, and the orchestra made a very efficient support to all, while the brass band was of course indispensable upon such an occasion. Mrs. Allen had, by request, arranged some beautiful music to which the choir were to have sung the Centennial Ode, but owing to the length of the programme, it was finally decided to have the ode read instead of sung, as a saving of time. The ode, which was composed by our local poetess, Miss Mary King, and beautifully read by Miss Eva Guernsey, is as follows:

CENTENNIAL ODE.

One hundred years! a silent stream,
Still fast and faster flowing on;
One hundred years since British rule
And haughty sovereignty were gone!

Who e'er that saw the bark canoe
Shoot down the river's noiseless stream,

Past sachem's lodge and council fire,
Of such a sight as this would dream?

Or who, that saw the sun go down
From settler's lonely cabin door,
Foresaw the ceaseless tide of men
That surges now from shore to shore?

That where the pale faced emigrant
Toiled painfully the trail beside,
Across the wide spread continent
To-day the untold millions ride?

That church bells sound where once alone
Was heard the whoop of savage brave,
That college halls make hallowed ground
Where lies the chieftain's nameless grave!

Each waited for its bidden time,
An embryo for the appointed hour —
Fulfillment of the years' demands,
Behold it, bursting into flower!

A flower that springs from honored graves,
Tended by breeze and sunlight free;
With Truth and Honor for his stem,
And for its root True Liberty.

The words of greeting by Mayor Davis, who always discharges such duties so well, were as follows:

GREETING BY THE MAYOR.

Ladies and Gentlemen: It must be a source of no ordinary gratification to the ladies of the city of Beloit, and especially so, to those who have so earnestly, and I trust successfully, urged upon the attention of our citizens the importance to our city of the enterprise in which they are engaged, to witness so large a gathering of our people as we have here to-night, ready as I believe, and as they believe, to coöperate with them in this important and difficult undertaking. And what adds immeasurably to this gratification is the fact that we have with us here to-night a goodly number of distinguished personages from abroad, come to aid us by their

presence, come to entertain us by speech and song, and to leave with us their words of counsel. What has been accomplished up to this time in connection with this enterprise, here in the city of Beloit, has been, I believe, exclusively through the efforts of the ladies. The gentlemen, of course, felt exceedingly gratified when they learned that at a proper stage of the proceedings they would be admitted as *silent* partners, and permitted to furnish such an amount of capital as the ladies in their good judgment might find necessary to a complete success of the enterprise in which they are engaged. Now as I am one of those expecting to invest, let me say to you, ladies, go forward, sparing no pains or expense in securing for our city a full, complete, and faithful representation of our business and educational interests, and I will assure you, that all drafts drawn upon the gentlemen of our city for this purpose will be cheerfully and promptly honored.

It is not expected that I should occupy time in considering the important questions connected with this enterprise. But before I resume my seat, I wish, on behalf of all our citizens, to extend to you, ladies and gentlemen here from abroad, a cordial welcome to our city, thanking you in their name, for interesting yourselves in that which if successfully carried forward will, in the future, be a source of pride and gratification to the entire population of our city.

The reading of interesting and encouraging letters by the secretary, Mrs. C. Ingersoll, was a very pleasant feature of the occasion.

Upon presenting the membership scroll to Mrs. J. G. Thorp, chairman of Wisconsin, the chairman of Beloit, Miss Martha Peet, spoke in the following very interesting and appropriate manner:

MISS PEET'S PRESENTATION REMARKS.

"*Mrs. Chairman:*—I have the distinguished honor to present for your acceptance and official recognition, the names of the members of the first centennial club of Beloit, mounted upon wood grown upon the first tree, planted by the first graduate, and molded into its present form by the amateur workmanship of the first tutor, professor and president in one, of Beloit College."

Mrs. Thorp responded in brief but most interesting and happy remarks, as follows:

MRS. THORP'S WORDS OF ACCEPTANCE.

"*Women of Beloit:* — Allow me to congratulate you upon the success with which the centennial enterprise is meeting, as organized and sustained by you. You are the first to receive the official recognition of the Women's State Centennial Executive Committee of Wisconsin. You have organized the first centennial club outside the capital city, thus endorsing and setting the seal of your approval upon this agreeable social feature of our work, *which is distinctively Wisconsin in its origin*. The *prestige* of your sanction will go far toward securing a state adoption, as well as the national approval. I would also congratulate you that you have the honor to be represented by an able and efficient chairman, whose generous *and discreet* enthusiasm in this as in every cause whose interests she espouses, is sympathetically contagious. The women of the state committee are proud to know and to affiliate with *such women* as have *here* represented themselves. It seems to me a matter of general congratulation that the women of Wisconsin may join hands and unite hearts in the labors preparatory to our grand centennial jubilee, from which we shall come forth better equipped for life's duties and destinies. We have reason to expect that the coming generation will open up new fields of labor and accomplishment for women; fields in which the barriers of ignorance and prejudice shall have been swept away by the incoming tide of a higher civilization. Upon *its* bosom *woman* shall be more graciously and tenderly borne to her appointed place. Problems in her life and experience inexplicable, from her present standpoint, will there come to the light of a more intelligent solution. We have to watch and to wait, while we *also* work. Our statesmen did not *plan* to liberate the slave when our men went forth to the battle field. Yielding to the fearful necessities of a war which God permitted, that He might open an avenue of escape to the oppressed and grant absolution to the oppressor, they did not even discern the finger of destiny pointing with unerring certainty to this great national culmination. They saw only, as they were *forced* step by step to higher levels, the light which freedom was faintly shedding from the distant horizon of peace. As *women* we *see* and *feel*, *just what*, we know not. We *think* we *dimly discern* the dawning light of a better day for our children and our children's children, and we lay hold upon the invisible with a faith commensurate with our love and desire for them. We hail this *golden* opportunity; we listen to the voice of this united appeal with quickened sensibilities, expecting from its results a guaranty for the future of womanhood. We honor ourselves, our families and our posterity, in honoring the centennial anniversary of our beloved country. We cannot labor inspired by its sentiments, without being the better and the happier for it, We

give liberally, and our fund of patriotic enthusiasm is not diminished; we receive in the same measure, and we find ourselves strengthened and uplifted thereby; *therefore*, we know that God is in the work; that He hath destined our one hundredth fourth of July to be a national and international communion season, when the bread of life shall be broken to us and to all the nations who come to this feast of love. We are in the seed time of our centennial year, and 'whatsoever we sow, that shall we also reap.' Allow me to express the hope that the era upon which you have so grandly entered shall be crowned with an honorable representation at Philadelphia in 1876, for the women of Beloit are among Wisconsin's most gifted daughters. May we each and all be there to see."

Upon accepting the scroll from Mrs. Thorp, Gen. Atwood, United States Centennial Commissioner, delivered the following able address:

GEN. ATWOOD'S ADDRESS.

"*Ladies and Gentlemen:*— It gives me much pleasure to meet so many excellent friends of the goodly city of Beloit as are now present, for the noble purpose of making preparation for a proper representation of that city, in the centennial exhibition in 1876. In the few moments I shall claim your attention, I cannot hope to do more than touch upon some points in regard to a matter that is now attracting the attention of the civilized nations of the world—an international exhibition in commemoration of the close of the first century of American Independence; an event which no person now living can ever enjoy again. It is hoped that our country will exist for ages upon ages; that our Declaration of Independence will ever remain the noblest expression of mankind for liberty and freedom. On the 4th of July, 1876, one hundred years will have passed since the noble 'fathers of the revolution' proclaimed to the world in a solemn declaration, that the united colonies of America were, 'and of right ought to be, free and independent states.' In support of that declaration, the patriotic and true hearted men pledged 'their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honors.'

"One hundred years ago, there were only three millions of people in the colonies, occupying but a narrow strip of territory on the Atlantic coast. During the century of our national existence about to close, from the small beginning of 3,000,000 of people, our country has increased to a population of 45,000,000 of people, representing every land, and stretching from the shores of the Atlantic to those of the Pacific; with an agricultural and manufacturing industry, expanded and diversified, so as to embrace all that the brain of man can devise, and that the

hand of man, aided by the forces of nature and the appliances of machinery, can execute; a nationality, feeble, and beseeching recognition a hundred years ago, now, admitted by universal consent to be the peer of the most formidable powers on earth. These are some of the *results* of our career as a republic that render it fitting that we should celebrate with pomp and pride the Centennial Anniversary of its birth. As a nation, we are prepared to exhibit 'the natural resources of the country and their development, and of its progress in those arts which benefit mankind,' in comparison with those of older empires and nationalities.

"By such a friendly comparison and competition, the power of a *free people* and a *free* government to produce grand results can be tested. The United States will not suffer by such comparison. A hundred years may not be deemed long in the life of a nation. Viewed, however, in the light of events that have transpired, and the progress that has been made in national greatness in the United States, a hundred years is a long time; and, in view of these events and progress, how fitting it is that the closing of the first century of our national life should be celebrated in a manner becoming an enlightened and grateful people! It was a happy thought that suggested the centennial commemoration by a grand International Exhibition in the city of Philadelphia, in 1876; and it will be a proud thing for the people of our country if that event proves the grandest, the most interesting and the most beneficial exhibition of the kind that the world has ever known! For a time, there were doubts and fears in regard to it on the part of those having its management in charge. These doubts and fears did not result from any want of patriotism on the part of the people of the nation, nor from a want of veneration and regard for the memories of the founders of the government. The leading cause was found in a tinge of local jealousy on the part of the people of the large rival cities as to *where* this exhibition should be held. This feeling has all subsided now; and but few, if any, even doubt the propriety of its being held in the city of Philadelphia.

"The whole feeling resulted from local pride in citizens of other cities, which is entirely natural. It was first developed in congress while the bill providing for organizing the movement was before that body. An effort was made to locate the exhibition in New York. It was my privilege to take part in that controversy, and to stand firm with the friends of Philadelphia. In that struggle the bill was stripped of many of its most useful provisions, which has proved the most serious embarrassment with which the Centennial Commission has had to contend. The section appropriating means by the general government for carrying on the enterprise was stricken out, and the matter of finance has been the cause of the most serious apprehension in regard to the celebration. But this trouble no longer

exists. The patriotism of the people of the country has gloriously triumphed; and they will furnish the means themselves. While this renders the labor of preparing for the grand event vastly greater and more perplexing, its consummation without the aid of the government will increase its grandeur, and prove the nobility and independence of our people in a degree that will richly compensate for all the extra labor it imposes.

"So manifest are the claims of Philadelphia to the location of this National event, that it seemed strange to me that any one could be found who preferred another place. In that city still stands Carpenter's Hall, where, in 1774, assembled the first Continental Congress; there, also, is Independence Hall, where the Immortal Declaration, that gave freedom and equal rights to all men, was signed and promulgated; there, the Father of his Country was called to the command of the Continental Army; there, for two terms, the first President of the United States resided; there, were performed many of the historic acts this exhibition is designed to commemorate; and there remains the old 'bell' that proclaimed liberty to the people on the 4th of July, 1776. In a history recently published, a full account of this old 'Liberty Bell' is given, from which we learn that it was originally cast in London, and that 'one Charles Roberts, then in London, was commissioned, November 1, 1751, to procure a good bell, and to contain in well shaped letters around it, by order of the assembly of the province of Pennsylvania, for the state house in the city of Philadelphia, 1752, and underneath, '*Proclaim Liberty throughout the land, to all the inhabitants thereof.*' This bell soon cracked, and March 10, 1753, was recast in Philadelphia, and was hung in its place, bearing the same motto to 'Proclaim Liberty,' etc. The writer then says: 'In July, 1776, this very bell rang out to the citizens of Philadelphia, that a new nation had sprung into existence; proclaiming, in language understood by every ear — *all men are born free and equal.*' The Exhibition is to be held on Fairmount Park, a location second to none in the United States for beauty of scenery, for convenience of communication by rail, a point too, where the North, South, East and the great West, can all center their cars without change of grade; a free flow of water from the basin; convenience of access from the heart of the city; within sight of the steeple of Independence Hall, and surrounded almost on all sides by mansions, homesteads and places of Revolutionary renown. This park contains over 3000 acres of land — 450 acres of which — the chosen spot of the whole tract — are set apart for Centennial purposes. Two views from an east and west point are especially attractive. The one from the west point is described as 'presenting many features of loveliness and grandeur — embracing the marble-studded heights of Laurel Hill; Fall Village,

with its rows of terraced dwellings and its rustic churches; the river softly winding along wooded shores, and beneath graceful arches past the romantic Wissahickon; and, in the remote distance, the silver-tinted smoke wreathes from the factories of Manayunk, curling around the lofty tree-tops, or sweeping downwards to the shining waters, thus blending emblems of human activity with the repose of nature.' The attractiveness from the eastern point is still greater. 'It abounds in natural and artistic beauties of the choicest character — wide-spreading plains; cultured lawns; rock-guarded bluffs; sequestered glens; meandering brooks; dense woods; plantations of rare and majestic trees; far reaching out-looks; ancient mansions — some of them dating back a century and a half, and supplying in excellent preservation, elaborate specimens of the architecture of the period to which they belong — the whole bordered by the Schuylkill in its most picturesque part; these form but a small portion of the inticing spectacles this park offers.' The spot is, to all Americans, classic ground; for on it still stand the memories of WASHINGTON, FRANKLIN, MORRIS and others, where hospitable roofs often covered the heroes of 1776 — WASHINGTON and his generals, and friends.

"The Centennial Commission, charged with making the entire arrangement for this Exhibition, is composed of two representatives from each state and territory, appointed on the recommendations of governors, by the president, under authority of a law of Congress. This Commission was organized on the 4th of March, 1872. The progress in its work of preparation was at first slow, owing to the embarrassments in financial matters, for reasons heretofore indicated. But everything is now in a promising condition. The several buildings for the use of the Exhibition will be fine specimens of architecture, and will cover about fifty acres of ground. They are in a state of forwardness, that gives assurance that they will be ready for the reception of articles at the time appointed for that purpose.

"The time fixed for the opening of the Exhibition to the public is the 10th of May, 1876 — just one year from this day. But one year is now left for preparation; and it will require much labor on the part of the people, to put in readiness all the articles of industry and specimens of our natural resources, that should be represented. Each state will or should, strive to make its own show the best. In natural resources, no state can excel our own Wisconsin; and we are not willing to admit that the people of any other state excel those of our own in patriotism, or in capacity, enterprise and skill, required to put these resources and industries into proper condition for exhibition. Our people only need waking up to the importance of the occasion to give Wisconsin a prominent position with her sister states in the coming Centennial Exhibition; and from the demonstration

here to-night, and from similar ones that are taking place in different parts of the state, quite frequently, the waking up process seems to have fairly commenced. The state pride of our people will do the necessary work when their attention is called to it.

"It has been a somewhat difficult matter to disabuse the public mind of the idea that this commemorative celebration was to be anything but a mammoth 4th of July demonstration, in the city of Philadelphia; and members of Congress and others have opposed it, on the ground that it would interfere with local celebrations on that day, which should be held at every point in the country. It will not interfere with local celebrations on that day — but it will rather have the tendency to stimulate them. This exhibition lasts for six months, and for the purposes of witnessing the splendid show, any other day of the six months will be better than the 4th of July. Already have the Centennial celebrations commmenced. Lexington and Concord have been duly honored. Preparation is being made for Bunker Hill on the 17th of June. We celebrate here this evening the anniversary of a little occurrence at Ticonderoga, where the bluff ETHAN ALLEN was the hero, and in answer to the question as to his authority, answered, "By the authority of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress." Thus will the people of the country celebrate different events of the revolution during the coming year in different localities; and when the culminating point is reached in 1876, and the people of the whole country with those of foreign nations shall commence a six months' commemoration of the Centennial anniversary of the birth of this great nation, the enthusiasm and patriotism of the people will cause it to be such a demonstration as has never been witnessed in this country, if in the world.

"As a method of raising money with which to defray the expenses of this exposition, under a law of congress, a 'board of finance' has been organized with power to issue centennial stock in shares of ten dollars each. This will enable all persons who desire to do so to become stockholders in the enterprise. It is hoped this stock will prove a good investment; but, if it should not, each stockholder will receive an elaborate certificate of stock, prepared by the government, engraved on steel at great expense and labor. As a work of art it is worth three times the cost of a share of stock. Centennial medals have also been issued. From the sale of stock and medals it is expected a large amount of money will be realized. This subject will no doubt be presented to the people of this state at an early day by agents of the financial board. A board of State Centennial Managers has been organized under a law passed by our last legislature. It is perfecting a plan of operations with a view to securing a full representation of

Wisconsin's natural resources and industries. This plan will soon be completed, and it is hoped the people — both ladies and gentlemen — will aid this state board in carrying out its designs. There is plenty of work to do; enough to occupy the spare time of all patriotic men and women in the state for the ensuing year.

"The great benefits that will accrue from this exhibition to the people of this country cannot be overestimated. Never before has this nation had so good an opportunity to judge of its own greatness, or to convince the world of the immense progress it has made under a free and independent government, as this occasion will afford. It will collect together at one time and in one place the most intelligent and enterprising men of all nations, who come either as exhibiters or visitors. There is unusual freedom from restraint in personal intercourse, and *more* can be imparted and secured in a few months, than could otherwise be possible with years of effort. It will bring together the people from the various sections of the United States; cause them to become more thoroughly acquainted with each others' manners and customs, and cement the different elements more closely by the common tie of national prosperity and greatness; the interests of the people will become more thoroughly harmonized, and their action in the future will be more completely united in preserving the integrity of this glorious Union.

"At a ladies' tea party, held in Philadelphia December 17, 1873, Hon. A. R. Boteler, of West Virginia, a member of congress in 1859, and subsequently a member of the confederate congress, after referring to many benefits that will result from this exposition, uses the following language on this subject: 'Nor will it be among the least of its blessings, that it will be the means of bringing together in friendly intercourse those of our countrymen in the north, the south, the east and the west, who have heretofore been alienated from each other by the emergencies of a maddened and most unhappy epoch. And the crowning grace and glory of that glad festival of peace will be the supreme triumph over the prejudices and passions of the past, in treading out the embers of sectional animosity — even to their last, lingering sparks — and in reëstablishing on the firm foundations of mutual interests, mutual respect, mutual confidence, mutual forbearance and mutual forgiveness, that earnest, honest, old-fashioned feeling of fraternity and good fellowship which formerly existed throughout our country between the citizens of every section and of all the states — such as our fathers felt in the old time before us, when they made the cause of each the cause of all — such as they felt when, faithful to their mutual pledge, they went forth side by side together, through all the perils of the Revolution, to maintain the truths and to right the wrongs so eloquently proclaimed in their undying declaration — such, I

say, as was felt by those whom we call fathers in the brave days of old, and such, I trust, as the God of our fathers will permit our children and their children's children to enjoy uninterruptedly through all the centuries to come!'

"*Ladies of Beloit!* In honoring the 'Revolutionary Fathers,' and the free government they established one hundred years ago, the 'Mothers of the Revolution' must also be remembered and honored with equal respect and veneration! The women of that day possessed as warm hearts, as determined wills, as high and holy patriotism, and exhibited as true heroism as did the men. They sacrificed husbands, sons, brothers, lovers, home comforts and life itself for our country and for freedom. Their devotion to the right; their consecration to the true cause: their zeal in the cause of freedom and equal rights; and their hatred of oppression, fired the hearts and gave nerve to the arms of the noble men to dare and to do great things for humanity, for home, for country and for the establishment of a republican government. The women did not sign the Declaration of Independence, but their power was felt in maintaining the principles of that immortal document. Let us honor, then, the 'Fathers and Mothers of the Revolution.' No less should the mothers and daughters of the wonderful and glorious present be honored. They fully appreciate and feel the beneficial results of freedom; the full recognition of their rights; the due homage to their private, social and public virtues. With their warm hearts, their enthusiastic and sympathetic natures, their determined wills, and with their energetic action—*their* power to do good, to influence men, becomes almost irresistible. During the late war, the influence of women was apparent in all things. They were as much interested in preserving intact this glorious Union as were those of the sterner sex. They encouraged their male friends to do their full duty in the field; their influence in alleviating suffering in the various hospitals, lightened the burdens and privations incident to war, and made comfortable and happy many a patriotic defender of his country. They were as anxious to protect, preserve and defend the free government established by our ancestors, as were the men. They rejoiced as sincerely and as heartily in Union victories, and in that great result of the war that loosened the shackles of slavery from 4,000,000 of human beings, and made them *free men and free women!* The women espouse every grand and noble cause, and, when they take hold in earnest in support of any laudable enterprise, there is no danger of failure. They have taken hold with the men, and claim to do their full share in making the centennial celebration in 1876 a perfect success. We have evidence in the demonstration here to night, and in the reports of similar action in all parts of the country, that the women are with us in the great centennial work, and with their presence and power, their aid, their energy, skill

and firm resolve, their hearty cooperation and perseverance in promoting the grand enterprise, the success of the exhibition is assured.

"'Perseverance is a Roman virtue,
That wins each God-like act, and plucks success
Even from the spear-proof crest of rugged danger.'

"As to the details of the work to be done by women, but little can be said at present. The first business is to arouse enthusiasm, to raise money, and to organize *for* work. In all grand enterprises, *money* is found essential, and it will be especially so in this one. Until the general plan of the exhibition is better known, I am not able to give directions, or even advise, as to what specific articles the ladies should prepare, but would recommend that attention be mainly given to articles possessing superior merit, as works of art or works of general interest.

"I notice that the ladies of the Beloit Club have struck the key note in this matter. Their energies are to be mainly directed to an article, elegant in design, and of special local interest, and one that will prove a lasting and honorable memorial to their superior judgment and taste. It is a happy conception and I doubt not the design will be executed in a manner that will reflect high credit upon the ladies of this city, when placed in comparison with similar work, from the sister states and from all Nations. As you progress with your organization, and as your enthusiasm in the cause increases — as I am sure it will increase — your own inventive genius will suggest what it is best further to prepare for the Centennial Exhibition. Should I receive any information by virtue of the position I hold, touching this subject, or any other that will be of interest to them, it will give me much pleasure to communicate it to the ladies of the state. There is no fear but they will find enough to do; nor is there fear, but they will do their work promptly and well. A great writer has said, 'woman is of so free, so kind, so apt, so blessed a disposition, she holds it a *vice* in her goodness not to do more than she is requested.' From the interest manifested by the ladies of Wisconsin during the past few weeks, I shall soon go to Philadelphia, to attend the annual meeting of the Centennial commission, greatly strengthened and encouraged, with the full assurance that our state will do its whole duty in the matter of having its vast resources represented in the Exhibition. With the ladies zealous and enthusiastic in the cause there is no fear of the result. I feel proud of the women of Wisconsin, and especially so of those of Beloit, and I most heartily congratulate you on this auspicious commencement of your centennial labors. Let the work you have so nobly begun, the blaze of enthusiasm you have so successfully kindled, be kept up, till the time for the opening of the great International Exhibition shall come

round, then, I trust, you will *all* be able and willing to transfer yourselves and the results of your labors to Fairmount Park, within the limits of the historic city of Philadelphia, and may you there receive pleasure and profit from your visit, that will prove a source of true happiness to you during the balance of your earthly existence. Good deeds — and you are certainly engaged in performing them — will surely bring their reward! Your organization has been recognized this evening, by the head of the women's movement of Wisconsin; by an estimable lady whose enthusiasm in the noble cause knows no limit, whose energy is equal to the important work she has undertaken; and, as Mrs. Thorp approves of your labors, I am sure you are right. Thus far, I understand, you have acted as women alone. You have done nobly, and I think you are now in a condition that will justify you in *permitting* the men to become your aids. Not to *rule* but to *obey* orders, and to contribute their time, their labor and their means, to aid in executing *your* plans. It will give the United States Centennial Commission much encouragement to witness the deep interest the women of the country are taking in the Centennial, and for this interest I thank them. The members feel assured that the men will not remain inactive when the women are in earnest. The influence of woman is felt and acknowledged in all things. There are some ministering angels in female guise among us all, and about our paths, who sweetly serve to adorn life. Our amusements are *insipid*, unless they contribute to them; our efforts of noblest ambition are *feeble*, unless they applaud; the rewards, *valueless*, unless they share them. There are, too, some rude spirits in the world, whose bolder natures female influence admirably serves to refine and temper. The poet well says of woman:

'Nature made thee
To temper man; we had been brutes without thee.'

"The concurrence of both sexes is as necessary to the perfection of our being, as to the existence of it. Man may make a fine melody, but women are required to make up harmony. I fully endorse the language of one of the world's sweetest poets, when he says:

"O, woman! dear woman! whose form and whose soul
Are the light and the life of each spell we pursue —
Whether summ'd in the Tropics, or chilled at the Pole,
If woman is there — there is happiness too!"

Following this, Miss PEET exhibited the beginning already made upon the college seal and explained the intentions regarding it as follows:

"At the request of the committee, I will endeavor to explain to you, as best I may, upon this sudden and unexpected notice, the design of the Club, and the model of the woman's work before you. The executive committee have endeavored, in getting up the Club, to give an accurate representation of the country, and also the city of Beloit, its growth, from the commencement, forty years ago, until the present time, so that at the Second Centennial their glorious present could be contrasted with the small beginning of to-day. The idea was to represent, by the names of Club officers, the early settlers and the manufacturers at this time; the number of the vice-presidents indicates the number of states, and the honorary vice-presidents the number of territories at the close of this Centennial. The idea of a *picture* — the center of which represents the feminine element, the inner home life — of embroidery, surrounded by a frame made of wood grown in Beloit, carved in bas relief by a Beloit young man, illustrative of the growth, industries and manufactures of Beloit. On the top, a picture of the river, with a prairie on fire in the distance, an Indian wigwam and two or three Indians, a badger, and so on, weaving in as best could be done, the history of Beloit from its beginning, when the first white man came here forty years ago this month, until to-day, symbolizing the grand masculine element which make it a complete whole.

"The women have accepted the model of their work, and are ready to make their contract, but educated as we have been, and are happy to be, we do not feel that the women have a right to make an attempt to do men's work, and if this frame, illustrating the business life of Beloit, is completed, the male members of this club must assume the financial responsibility, and appoint their own committee, and make this affair their own to *vote* upon as they please. The design — the seal of Beloit College — about which our women's affections cluster, — where our sons and brothers and friends are educated, is a Dove over an open Bible, inscribed in characters of Greek and Hebrew, upon a shield, surrounded by the Latin motto (translated), 'True Science and Firm Faith,' this again encircled by the pure English of to-day, 'Beloit College in Wisconsin, U. S. A.' This shield rests upon a bed of Forget-me-nots wrought in floral designs, with lovely colors of silks upon white satin, the Latin motto upon white velvet in flowers, and symbolical of its meaning. This again encircled by the pure English of to-day, 'Beloit College, Wisconsin,' in exquisite foliage wrought on white gros grain silk, surrounded by a wreath of oak and laurel leaves, with a band of gold, the whole upon a ground of black velvet with stars of silver."

The constitution was then read by the secretary, and circulated

for signatures. Quite a number of new names were obtained, the gentlemen in the audience submitting gracefully to the demands made upon them to play the subordinate violin of the enterprise. While the tableau was in preparation, the audience joined the choir in singing "America," with much zest. The tableau vivant was a vivid representation of Columbia, surrounded by the "Original Thirteen," representatives of the Army and Navy, etc., and the song "Red, White and Blue" was delightfully sung by Miss Hattie Sims, who surprised the audience with the power and richness of her young voice. This closed the interesting exercises at the Opera House, and for an hour or two following, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Wright was thrown open to the guests from abroad, their entertainers, the officers of the club and the musicians, and thus delightfully ended the rare entertainments of this rare occasion. Next day the guests were invited to a drive around our city, and taken to the cars for their departure in the afternoon, feeling greatly pleased with their visit, and the enthusiasm manifested in Beloit for the success of the great centennial.

CLUB MEETINGS.

THE RED WHITE AND BLUE.

May 4, 1875. — Last evening the spacious and elegant mansion of Mr. C. L. Williams was thrown open, and a large number of ladies and gentlemen were invited in to participate in the organization of a local Centennial Club. The meeting was entirely informal, and a most delightful evening was enjoyed. The "Red, White and Blue" Centennial Club was organized, a constitution adopted, and officers chosen. Mrs. Judge Hopkins was elected president, Mrs. Burr W. Jones, secretary, and Miss

Minnie Atwood, treasurer. A full list of vice presidents, committees, etc., were appointed. About thirty or forty of those present subscribed to the constitution and paid the fee required to join the club. The Red, White and Blue starts out under most favorable auspices, and if the first meeting be taken as a criterion, its success is assured. Mrs. Williams received the guests with that ease and grace which has rendered her home celebrated, and she more than merited the hearty thanks she received for her efforts in organizing this club. Mrs. Thorp was present to assist with her counsel, and her enthusiasm for the work was an inspiration to the whole company. We hope to be able to give a full list of officers, etc., in our next issue.

May 14, 1875.—A delightful reunion was held last evening at the residence of Mrs. J. C. Hopkins. A regular meeting of the Women's "Red, White and Blue Club," organized for Centennial work. This club is made up of young ladies and matrons, with men, both married and single. Mrs. Hopkins is president of the club, and she entertained its members last evening, at her elegant residence, in a manner that gave much satisfaction to all present, the rooms being splendidly decorated with national flags, etc. Sociability, business and literary exercises rendered the proceedings intensely interesting. Something over a hundred persons were present, and all were full of real enjoyment.

The exercises were opened by the singing of an original song, written by a lady of this city. It is set to the tune of "*Yankee Doodle*," and was admirably performed by Mrs. Oakley, Mrs. Cram, Mrs. Ingman, Miss Jennie Mills, Miss Cora Gregory, and Mr. J. J. Kuehn, each one singing a verse, and all joining in the chorus. Dr. C. C. Chittenden presided at the piano.

The song is as follows:

CENTENNIAL.

[Dedicated to "The Red, White and Blue Club."]

TUNE—"*Yankee Doodle.*"

A hundred years, a century,
So grandly closing o'er us;
We 'll shout across the land and sea
A mighty swelling chorus.

CHORUS—A century; a nation free;
A century so glorious;
A century; and liberty
Is reigning all victorious.

Our children learn of liberty,
Amid their childish prattle,
Just how we paid the tax on tea
In *shot* we used in battle.

Old Bennington still echoes back
From mountain, stream and meadow,
"There stand the red coats! beat them, boys!
Or MOLLY STARK 's a widow."

The eager men then seized their guns,
And doubled every volley,
For each one saw his own dear home,
And waiting there, his *Molly*.

Oh! Trenton saw our gallant men,
With feet all bare and bleeding;
The girls were knitting stockings then,
Mothers in prayer were pleading.

'Tis said that MARTHA WASHINGTON
Kept sixteen wheels a spinning;
Our soldiers wore *The Homespun* then,
Our freedom they were winning.

Old Bunker shouts to Yorktown now,
"What is the land's condition?"
She answers back—"In seventy-six,
We 'll have an Exposition!"

MADISON, WIS., *May 14, 1875.*

Dr. Charles H. Vilas then read the constitution and by-laws very finely, and those present, who had not before done so, became members.

Mrs. Ole Bull, by special request, read a paper written by a lady member of the club, who declines to let us use her name. The reading by Mrs. Bull was excellent, every word being distinctly heard throughout the several rooms. The paper is as follows:

"In the rush and hurry of our age, it is not often we halt and cast a glance over our shoulder to the past. But now, as the century is drawing to its close, and Columbia sits by the fire side, living over her glorious past, it is fitting that her children should gather about her knees and listen to the stories of her youth. Not that they are new to us. We know each one by heart. Our eager eyes a thousand times have caught the glint of Paul Revere's beacon light, and as many have we marched with those first heroes on to Concord and to Lexington. The very mention of those brave days and deeds is potent still to stir the sluggish heart with love and pride. 'We cannot tell our love' as we would, in a great national hymn, which should this day ring across our continent, and from ocean to ocean — but we have a cluster of magic words whose simple meaning has led men on through blood to victory, and women through suffering to fame — 'The Red, White and Blue.' So, in forming ourselves into 'The Red, White and Blue Club,' we feel that the very name insures the enthusiasm which is demanded for its success; and it only remains for us to secure the direct object of the organization which is to fitly represent our fair city on that great festive day close at hand. And in spite of croakers, who say the good old times are gone and we are not like our grandmothers, we entertain no fears of our success. How do we compare with our venerated grandmothers? Do we spin? No. Weave the homespun? No. Mind half a score of children, do all the housework, knit a sock of an evening, and go to meeting three times every Sunday? A thousand times, no! The onward march of civilization, with its discoveries and inventions, is not alone for man. Steel and wood, lightning and steam, work to-day for women, and their heads are better than their hands. We cannot spin — our grandmothers could not spell. Think of that, ye day of spelling schools — and when Madison's champion is a woman. Brides elect, we do not knit our pillow case full of stockings, ready for the happy day; but we may teach, or sing, or write a 'Bachelor Ben,' and the Balbriggans follow naturally. All honor to our grandmothers!

Turning over the leaves of history, we note with unbounded pride that every page glows with the story of some brave, good woman who, no less than illustrious husbands and sons, fought for, and won, this new world for us. We admire them; and had we lived in their day would, with them, have run our pewter platters into bullets, and — taken our cup of tea on the sly. Still, we do not shrink from comparison, and have allowed the stately steppings of the minuet to galop into the erratic German; but when the country calls for women, as it ever will in its hour of peril, women's hands and hearts and lives will answer as they have always done. And, out of its social meetings, the 'Red, White and Blue,' in 1876, shall evolve a tribute worthy of its city and its name."

Song, "Waiting at the Brook Side," was then beautifully sung by Mrs. Dr. Ingman.

Mrs. Dr. Feuling then read, in a charming manner, a memorial poem, written by herself expressly for this occasion. This beautiful poem was received with much favor, and Mrs. F. kindly permits us to publish it, as follows:

IN MEMORY OF 1776.

[For "The Red, White and Blue Club."]

The poets sing in mythic lore
  That *Justice*, when world weary grown,
To glad Olympus turned once more,
To *Freedom* broke the chain she bore,
  And chose *Columbia* as her throne.

She came to build a holy shrine,
  To rive the fetters of the foe,
To bid the star of promise shine,
To spread the law of Love divine,
  The golden grain of Truth to sow.

Our land, not then thy honest boast
  Of queenly cities, untold gains,
But prophecies of coming hosts
Reëchoed on thy rocky coasts,
  And sounded in thy woodland fanes.

What vision for a race oppressed!
Beyond the cloud and through the sea
A land of fruitage, God's behest,
A land of blessing, for the blest,
A land of Freedom for the free.

To-night, we count the years, we note
The bleak defile, the eyry shore,
The storms that beat a valiant boat,
While echoes down the silence float
To echo on — forever more.

The milestones of a hundred years
Are set along the changeful way,
What record there of unshed tears!
Of crosses borne through hopes and fears
To crown our Country's natal day!

What pictures down those aisles of time
Are lit with bold unfading glow!
What songs that blend in sweetest rhyme,
What peans tuned to bells in chime,
Along those leagues of distance flow!

There smiles a mother and her child,
Gold-haired, with sunny, English eyes —
What song so weird his dream beguiled?
Yon dusky mothers of the wild
Have taught their crooning lullabys.

Those sturdy ships to-night we greet.
They bore the banner of the free;
They dared the mighty foe to meet —
Old England's proud, colossal fleet —
And won the trophies of the sea.

Those battle plains to-night we tread,
Where mem'ries, consecrated, dwell.
For there our country's leader led;
For there repose our country's dead,
Who for her sacred honor fell.

The sound of battle — peal on peal,
The rolling thunder rose and fell —
The cannon's boom — the clash of steel —
Till Freedom's hosts, with freemen's zeal,
Rang out the watch word, "All is well!"

Their names shall crown historic page
With glory that shall never fail,
And tell how Valor won the wage —
How died for Freedom's heritage
Brave guardians of our Holy Grail.

From out those years what records tow'r
Above Oblivion's midnight pall;
Of pride, that swayed its little hour;
Of nations robbed of wealth and pow'r;
Of revolutions' rise and fall.

Fair isles have sunk into the deep,
And mighty mountains crumbled low —
Our Union stands; and ours to reap
That peace our fathers pledged to keep,
That day, a hundred years ago.

Then may we garland Freedom's shrine
With gifts of beauty and perfume —
Green branches of New England's pine,
Red gold from California's mine,
White drifts of Southern cotton bloom.

Then Art and Science at her feet,
Their horns of plenty shall out-pour;
Then nation shall with nation meet,
And sing God's praises, full and sweet,
That they may join in peace once more.

Our hearts aspire e'en with the song —
Our God, in whom all good has birth,
Let not the promised hour be long,
Ere Love shall vanquish human wrong,
And Peace extend o'er all the earth.

The old song, "The Red, White and Blue," was then sung in a most admirable manner by Mrs. Gen. CRAM, the whole audience joining in the chorus.

The refreshments — plain but excellent — were then served up, in which all took part with a decided relish.

After this, those who desired, participated for a short time in a lively dance, Miss KITTY CHITTENDEN, Mrs. CRAM and Dr. CHITTENDEN kindly furnishing the music on the piano.

At 11:30 the company dispersed, all feeling that a most enjoyable evening had been spent under the hospitable roof of Mrs. HOPKINS.

Thus the "Red, White and Blue Club" may be considered as fairly inaugurated under the most favorable auspices. The meeting was a decided success — considered socially, mentally, musically or financially. Each member on paying the initiation fee was presented with a tastily arranged red, white and blue badge, which had been prepared by the fair hands of the ladies, who are zealous workers in promoting the interests of the club. We extend our hearty congratulations to the enthusiastic ladies of the "Red, White and Blue Club," upon the excellent name they have selected, and upon the brilliant success of their regular meeting last evening. May their labors for the year to come prove pleasant and profitable to them; and may they all meet on Fairmount Park in 1876, to witness the grand exhibition in commemoration of the first hundred years of our national existence.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF A CENTENNIAL REUNION GIVEN BY MRS. GOV. TAYLOR.

As announced, Mrs. Gov. Taylor held the third reception of the Woman's State Centennial Club last evening at the Park Hotel. At an early hour in the evening, the hotel was tastefully illuminated by Chinese lanterns all along the front on Carroll street; chandeliers of red, white and blue lights hung in the parlors and corridors on the second floor, while the rarest plants and flowers to be had in the city beautifully and tastefully ornamented the ladies' parlors. The large dining hall was lavishly draped with the stars and stripes; the floors were canvassed, and Faust's celebrated string band were in position to furnish the lovers of the mazy dance with their best music.

The guests on arrival were ushered into the drawing room of the hotel, and most cordially received by Mrs. Taylor and associates.

Mrs. Hoyt, the Treasurer, uncovered a mysterious basket which she bore, and disclosed the badges of the state club, and fastened one upon each member in passing. The badge is a pearl colored ribbon, on which is printed in blue the coat of arms of the state, while a red knot completes the triad of national colors.

The company assembled, which is said to have numbered four hundred, and would have been larger had the weather been favorable, were invited by Gen. Atwood to descend to the dining hall, and the literary exercises commenced, after a song by Mrs. Cram, Mr. Folds and Mr. James S. Smith, entitled "I know a bank whereon the wild thyme grows."

Gen. Atwood, reading from the programme which Mrs. Tay-

LOR had drawn up, found his name next in order for a report of his recent visit to the fountain-head Philadelphia, with his usual promptitude and enthusiasm for the cause, responded at some length.

Next the voice of Mrs. Dr. INGMAN rang out with great clearness through the wide hall in a sweet song, and prepared for Mr. CHARLES N. GREGORY's thrilling poem. We are proud to send forth this offering contributed by our young poet, as Madison's and her State University's own laureate, nor are we afraid to place it beside the classic gems which came to us from the east a few weeks since, and were inspired by a sight of Lexington's battle-field, April 19th.

LEXINGTON.

Soft blew the morning airs, pleasantly straying,
Under the willows that bent o'er the stream,
Hiding the water, and then in their swaying,
Showing a moment its silvery gleam.

Merry birds sang on the highest boughs tilting,
Violets opened blue eyes to the sun;
But the best blossoms of freedom lay wilting,
Ere the bright day of the spring time was done.

Proudly the horses, their haughty necks arching,
Bore the brave leaders in scarlet coats gay;
Proudly contemptuous the British came marching,
Out from the town ere the morning was gray.

Down through the lanes where the country lay sleeping,
Under the stars while the shining dew fell,
Never a thought, on their cruel way keeping,
Morning's defeat and disaster to tell.

Freedom sleeps light, and a sound will alarm her;
Despots' encroachments fall loud on her ear;

So on that night every Middlesex farmer,
Knew that the foe and the conflict grew near.

Swift flew the message from village to village,
Ere the east flushed, all the land was aflame,
From every field came the child of its tillage,
From every anvil the brawny smith came.

'Twas not a time to delay or to trifle,
All must be given lest all be undone;
None were too young that could handle a rifle,
None were too old that could shoulder a gun.

On the broad green for the country that bore them,
Neighbor by neighbor the minute-men form,
Long is the line of invaders before them,
Solemn the quiet presaging the storm.

Then the command to disperse while the yeomen
Stoutly face death for the land of their birth;
Ruthlessly shed by the balls of their foemen,
Life's ruddy current pours out on the earth.

Sacred the fame of the men that have striven
Bravely and well for their land and their laws;
Sacred the turf where a mortal hath given —
Freely hath given his blood for his cause.

Though o'er their graves the rank grasses are springing,
Though o'er their dust no memorial rise;
Yet the brave deed through the centuries ringing;
Wafts their great names to the uttermost skies.

But where of late they were proudly advancing,
Scarlet-backed troopers from over the sea,
Banners thrown wide and with shining steel glancing,
On to imbrue it with blood of the free.

Look, the drilled soldiers of tyranny waver!
Look, the trained cohorts are turned in defeat!
Freedom repulses the foreign enslaver,
Fierce was the conflict — the triumph was sweet.

Ev'ry stone wall, where the farmer had laid it
High on the edge of his little hill farm,
Flashed out a ball from the band that betrayed it,
Staying the aim of a patriot's arm.

Every scant bush that gave place for concealing—
Cherry or apple tree blossomed like snow—
Sent its bright flame, and a scarlet coat reeling,
Showed how our plowboys could welcome a foe.

Thus in the days of our liberty's danger,
They were the many and we were the few;
But we repelled the attacks of the stranger,
Thus, with God's helping, we ever will do.

And when the buds of a century fleetly
Aprils have scattered in sunshine and rain;
When those old patriots, slumbering sweetly,
Long 'neath the sod of a free land have lain;

When time has shown us their work was enduring,
Has and shall last as no nation before,
Honor maintaining and justice securing;
Has lived a cycle, and shall evermore;

Pause, then, a moment, to speak of their story—
Stay, then, to honor those brave minute men;
Vowing, if ever she needs for her glory,
Our land shall not lack such defenders again.

Mr. J. J. Kuehn then gave us the pleasing variety of a lay in the language of his own fatherland.

Gen. Atwood announced that permission would then be given to any person who wished to make any remarks, and suggested that he noticed a gentleman was present, who always made good speeches, and no doubt the audience would be pleased to hear from Hon. John M. Bingham, of Chippewa Falls.

Mr. Bingham came forward and addressed the company in his usual terse and elegant manner, paying a high compliment to

the ladies for the part they took in the noble and patriotic work of assisting to make this great national undertaking a grand success, etc.

The next exercises consisted in some very fine singing by Miss Cora Gregory.

This part of the evening's entertainment was then closed with the following Centennial Club Hymn, composed by Prof. J. D. Butler, and read by John B. Parkinson:

Tune. — "*Greenland's Icy Mountains.*"

At Waukesha's health fountains,
Menomonee's pine mills,
Where forth from iron mountains
Metallic wealth distills;
By Eau Claire's river-meetings,
And Madison 'tween the Lakes,
For centenary greetings
Behold Wisconsin wakes!

What though the father freed us
From British George's chains,
While Paris fashions lead us,
Dress tyranny remains,
From prairie and from river
Where'er our maidens dance,
They call us to deliver
From mimicry of France.

Wisconsin fair ones, waken!
Her gallant men inspire,
With earnestness unshaken
And independence fire!
See one short year before us,
Our hundredth natal day;
Join Philadelphia's chorus,
And noblest offerings pay.

After the reading of the poem, refreshments were announced, and all found their way into the private dining room, where the tables, with ornamental cakes, beautiful boquets of flowers, tea and coffee, sandwiches, ice cream and strawberries were awaiting, from whence all departed satisfied that in feeding the hungry, the proprietor of the Park Hotel will surely be entitled to the first prize at the great Centennial Exhibition.

The lovers of the dance were not slow in taking possession of the large dining room hall and inaugurating the mazy waltz, and the sweet notes of FAUST'S band continued until the hour for dispersing.

The number present must have been between three and four hundred, making the entertainment a complete success, being universally pronounced one of the most enjoyable parties of the season.

MRS. J. D. BUTLER,
Sec. W. S. C. C.

FOURTH OF JULY, 1875.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF COMBINED CENTENNIAL CLUBS.

The Centennial Celebration given by the ladies of Madison, on the evening of the 5th of July, in the Assembly Chamber of the Capitol, was an ovation of which we are proud to make record. The banner of glowing colors which the heavens unfurled at Sunday's sunset, followed by a rainbow in the east, gave promise of fine weather for Monday, the day appropriated for the united festival of the Madison Centennial Clubs. But alas for human hopes! Alternate showers filled with fearful forebodings many an anxious heart, lest the efforts of the few

who had labored so unweariedly to perfect every detail of the interesting programme promised, should not be rewarded by a commensurate audience. But the falling clouds failed to darken or dampen the enthusiasm of our citizens. A large concourse gathered at the hour proposed, and foreboding turned to exultation as friend greeted friend in the rotunda and dressing rooms. The weather prevented the illumination of the park by Chinese lanterns, for which provision had been made, but no influences had abated the zeal of the decorative committee. As we entered the hall the witch's prophecy seemed fulfilled and "Birnam wood had come to Dunsinane." Our Assembly Chamber was a pillared shade, high over arched, and dotted with vine and moss baskets of fairy shapes and velvet hues. Glittering amid this temple which appeared a grove, were banners and "bruised arms hung up for monuments," of our nation's pride, and our country's noble achievements. The speaker's desk had been transformed by artistic hands into a niche with the state insignia, and before which hung a mysterious curtain. On the opposite side of the hall a mossy grotto, enshrining the flower nymphs, added its own charm to the scene. On casting a look over the company assembled, it was delightful to observe how many had caught the spirit of the occasion and brought back the past into the living present. Besides numbers who had spared no pains to perfect their antique and indeed royal toilettes, of whom we shall speak again, there was a tinge of quaintness interspersed in the fashions of to-day; by here a lovely Quaker dress — there a powdered head towering in soft massy coils, or enveloped in the snowy cap of the olden time, while an ancient heir loom dress, mantle, or comb, betokened that the descendants of the Pilgrims, journeying to the western wilderness, had brought many a household God

with them. The audience was in all particulars select and refined, as was attested by their quiet manner and close attention during the exercises, and the absence of that rudeness of behavior which sometimes characterizes Madison entertainments. Among the guests, we observed our own worthy Governor, as well as ex-Gov. WASHBURN, whose courtly bearing always distinguishes him in the crowd. We do not speak of Madison ladies in particular, hoping that all were there, either as members of a Centennial Club or expecting to become so. We were especially honored by a large delegation from our sister city, Milwaukee, though the crowded programme prevented the recognition of these guests as courtesy and welcoming hearts prompted. Nor can we now give all the names of the fourteen ladies and eleven gentlemen. We recognized Mrs. COLT, famous in the charities of the past Mrs. C. was attended by her daughter. Mrs. ASHLEY, wife of Rev. Dr. ASHLEY, of St. James Church, also gave us the sanction of her genial presence, and Mrs. GILBERT, a favorite in social life, with many young ladies, among them the three Miss SCHLEYS and the Miss SMITHS, added to the Milwaukee grace and beauty of the festivity.

Gen. GEO. B. SMITH, master of ceremonies, in the costume of a gentleman of King GEORGE's court, hushed the waiting crowd by announcing the first tableau. This was Gen. WASHINGTON's first visit to the fair young widow, Mrs. CUSTIS, who, with her two children playing at her feet, is surprised by his entrance. The tableau was shown in a gilded frame to resemble the pictures from which it and all the succeeding ones were taken. It was life-like and exquisite beyond description. Mr. STUART, our southern artist, and a gentleman who came to us a few years since a stranger and now abides the universal friend and favorite in all our homes, very suitably personated our first chivalric

president, and throughout preserved that stately dignity and impressive reserve for which Washington was noted. Miss Flora Van Norstrand, formerly one of our own sweet girls, but now claimed by Green Bay, appeared as Mrs. Custis, in that costume and coiffure which for grace and beauty it will ever be difficult to excel. The curtain rose and fell several times in response to the enthusiastic *encore*, and yet no one gazed long enough on the interior of that lordly home on the Potomac, of which Washington became master when he afterwards received the hand of its mistress. The second tableau was Inman's most popular picture, which has made us all familiar with the Washington family group after the lapse of years. The children are larger, and the lady is now aging. Some quoted Herbert's —

> "Nor spring nor summer beauty has such grace
> As may be seen in her autumnal face,"

while admiring Mrs. William Mears, who sat for Lady Washington. The resemblance was at once so striking and lovely, that an exclamation of delight thrilled through the entire audience.

Judge Ryan's address asks no meed from us but thanks, for its words of eloquent pathos speak to every heart:

> "'Breathes there the man with soul so dead,
> Who never to himself hath said,
> This is my own, my native land?'

"Poetry is an outcry of our higher nature. And well might the fervent poet feel incredulous of one so unnatural, for love of country is an instinct of nature. All society rests on natural necessities. When God, in His beneficence, instituted the family, He ordained the nation. For families constitute communities and are the integers of nations. So family love is the gem of patriotism: love of home, the inspiration of love of country. And so, true to nature, the poet adds:

"'Whose heart hath ne'er within him burned
As *home* his footsteps he hath turned
From wandering on a foreign strand.'

"Home is not the dwelling, so much as the indwellers; the loving hearts, the pleasant voices, the sympathetic faces which consecrate it. So is country not so much the land, as the people who possess it and give it character. Israel was a nation in the desert as well as in the land flowing with milk and honey; intensely patriotic without a county; a homeless people wandering with but prophetic love of the promised land. We love home in our love of those who make it home; we love country in our love of the kindred race who make it a living nation. We may sigh for lovely spots which once were home, but home follows the household. We may look back with lingering affection on our birthplace, but our country is with the people amongst whom we cast our lots to live and to die. And yet there is, perhaps, something more than association; an inscrutable affinity between the land and the people; a sympathy with the scene of love which seems to be part of the love itself. Places once loved for their sake whose places know them no more forever, are inexplicably dear to us. This lovely spot of earth is dear to you all. But it is not altogether these graceful undulations, these embowered hills, these glistening lakes, this smiling landscape studded with pretty homes, that you love. It is rather those who dwell in them, sanctifying nature with the offices of human love. In desolate winter, Madison is as dear to you as in pleasant summer. And yet, if the whole community should emigrate together, even to some finer and happier abiding place, would you not all yearn for this deserted spot; mourn with GOLDSMITH over your unforgotten —

"'Sweet Auburn, loveliest village of the plain?'

"And so we all love the land of our inheritance or choice, the insensible scene; but we love with higher and more intelligent love the people who give it life and history. This people, from zone to zone, from sea to sea, in the semi-arctic north or the semi-tropic south; on the thrifty shores of the Atlantic, or the golden sands of the Pacific; born in the folds of the flag, or finding an asylum under it; all who inhabit the land and love it; all who abided by the Union, and all stray sheep who have been restored to the fold; all who claim the great American name and honor it; these are our country — these, and the land so blessed with wealth of nature; these, and the institutions now reaching their century of age; these are the nation whose birthday we are keeping, because we love it and all that belong to it. On these, which we call the United States, on the

Union, and on every state in it, on this vast aggregation of American homes, and on every home in it, we meet to-night to invoke the blessing and guidance of the Lord God of the nations. It is His beneficent order that, of all His creatures on earth, the children of man should mature slowest, remain longest within the age of nurture. Brief as life is, this is great mercy. Because, gifted with reason, and responsible for it, man only, of all creatures, needs education of his intelligence. The dependence of children is the opportunity. And so the early birthdays of our sons and daughters are not mere festivals; they are mile-stones on the road of life; days of solemn admonition, for study of the past and consideration of the future; that our young ones may gather strength and wisdom before they leave us to encounter alone the trials, and drink the bitter waters of the world.

"Nations, too, have youth and maturity and age. That is the lesson of all history. They dream who talk of the perfection or perpetuity of human institutions. The end of all the work of man is the end of man himself — decay and death. There is no eternal vigor for the nations. Age will come, but first youth and maturity. And education will do for nations what it does for individuals — invigorate youth and lengthen maturity. For nations, too, have education. Each generation educates the next. And national education, what we call progress, never ceases from generation to generation. This country began its national education most happily in the colonies. It graduated most auspiciously in the revolution. But America is but a stalwart youth yet, a young giant of undeveloped strength and stature, with much to learn for good or for evil. Its birthdays should be days of exultation indeed, or we should be ungrateful to our fathers and to the God of our fathers. But they should be also days of reflection and of counsel; wise festivals wisely kept. Above all, they should be kept in the broad and true patriotism which embraces the whole country, and loves it because it is the country. It may well be that the generous, forbearing and catholic spirit of a century ago might have spared this generation the terrible episode whose glory bears the reproach of all civil strife. Let us to-day thank Him, whose service is perfect peace, that the bitterness of that time is fast passing away. Let it be, a year hence, the glory of the centenary, that love has outlived hate and buried it in the grave of the past forever.

"This is the annual eve of that day, for which so much is done and from which so much is hoped. The lights and shadows of almost a hundred years are upon this day. For there is light and shade in all human history, and ours has no magical exemption. Neither individual nor nation can escape altogether the human doom of error. But wise is the man or nation who is taught by failure.

Sun your hearts to-day in the warm lights of the century past, but do not shut them against the grave lessons veiled in the shadows. It is not for me, it is not, perhaps, for any living to speak the lessons of to-day. The voices of a century are in your ears: the voices of the great and wise and good, who, being dead, yet speak. Are there such living voices now? Are there such men now? Is there such public virtue now? Is there a pure society now? How do these days, and the people of these days bear comparison with those days and the people of those days? What has the land to show for the growth of a hundred years? Great population, great development, great power, great wealth. Are these all? Have these brought with them none of the luxury and license which turn blessings into curses? Compare the men standing at the end of the century with the men of the beginning. Is the standard of public manhood as high? Or, amidst the gigantic growth of the nation, are the men of this day dwarfed by the men of that day? These are not my questions. They are the questions of those who made this a national holiday; the questions of those who gave us this inheritance of glory and of duty; the questions of the past to the present; voices echoing in our ears to-day down a hundred years of history. It is for you, not for me, to answer these. Yet not for you only; for the whole American people. Words will not answer them. They are historical questions, and the answers must be historical; the annals which the present is to add to the past.

"One great and wise voice sends warning to our ears to-day, crying 'Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable.'' Since that glorious head was laid in the dust, the Union has had its trial, and, thank the God of Nations, that danger seems passed forever. If the living dead witness the doings of posterity, how that great statesman's heart must exult in the security of the Union for which he pleaded in life, since sealed with so much precious blood. But his words abide with us. Liberty and Union. The Union has survived its trial; Liberty may have its trial next; the liberty which rests on local self-government, the unimpaired sovereignty of the states, as the fathers of the country founded them a hundred years ago. Centralization means despotism. History teaches that lesson on a thousand pages. The men of a hundred years ago well understood it, and gave us a system of general and local sovereignty, the best and wisest the world has ever seen. The danger of the past was in the states against the Union; the danger of the future may be in the Union against the states. Union *and* Liberty —the emphasis is Webster's, not mine—they cannot be divided; they are the twin children of the revolution, to live or to die together. Hear to-day the voice of the historic dead—'Liberty *and* Union, now and forever, one and inseparable.'

And what do the voices of the century demand to-day of you, the reigning generation of Madison, for the future of the land? Another generation, worthy of them whose descendants you are; fitted to carry on the work so well begun a hundred years ago, the great experiment of man's capacity to rule himself; an experiment only for an educated and elevated people. Some short weeks ago, I sat in this room and heard many of the fearful problems of life, readily solved by the warm hearts and enthusiastic imaginations of the young. It were little to say that it was pleasant to listen; it was full of hope. The future may well be trusted to a generation so educated and disciplined. *O, si sic omnes.* The education of the young; not partial or imperfect or fragmentary education, but full and thorough intellectual, moral and religious culture is the great debt of the present to the future; the solution of all our political problems. You have reason to be proud of your schools and of the University. Men of Madison, you owe it to your country not to uphold these merely, but to see to it year by year, that each year's culture of your children rises above the year's before. You will so add more glory to the second Centenary, than if you were the heroes of a hundred battle fields.

"This is truly a woman's celebration, and gives me a license. Women of Madison, what can you do for the future? More than men may, perhaps, by playing well your part of womanhood. The institution of institutions, the seed of all civilization, depends mainly on you; home, the true sphere and glory of womanhood. There are women who disdain the duties of your sex, and aspire to ours. It is an exchange of glory for shame. True glory is in duty. True shame is in failure of duty. What can you, women, give to the world? Pure, refined and happy homes. What can you give to the future? Brave boys and chaste girls; a virtuous and intelligent generation. Woman's true jewels are her children. Woman is the first teacher. Send your boys and girls to what college you may, their mothers are their first professors. Her lessons are the more impressive and enduring. Her early influence goes more to the character of the young, than all the formal teachings which follow. Woman's true dignity is at home. Men see a halo of glory around the gray hairs of her, who has played well her part of mother, never seen in the most illustrious of her own sex. Oh woman, give to the future virtuous and disciplined children; and not they only, the nation will arise and call you blessed. For in the Christian homes of the world, woman rocks the cradle of the future.

"Something too much of all this. He would be a stern preacher who could look on this day, on this congregation, and reprove the world of folly. It is not easy for me to-night to feel quite sure at which end of the century I am standing.

The Centennial dead seem risen from the dust of the century. The scene is so enchanting that it is easily seen it is woman's work. No fear of disloyalty need intrude here. There is not a man among us, of any state or country, of any politics or age, who is not longing to-night to take the red, white and blue close to his heart. This delightful scene will be long remembered. Even when most of us shall have passed away, the little ones of 1875 will say of this ante-Centennial celebration: Wisconsin's

> "'Capital had gathered then
> Her beauty and her chivalry; and bright
> The lamps shone o'er fair women and brave men.
> A thousand hearts beat happily, and when
> Music arose with its voluptuous swell,
> Soft eyes looked love to eyes that spake again,
> And all went merry as a marriage bell.'"

The tableau which followed was our grand "Old Abe," the winged veteran of many a battle field, mounted on his perch. He stood in the most dignified posture during Col. Mayers poetic address to him, but though he could gaze at the sun, and brave the roar of cannon, he drooped his head as if scarcely worthy of the Colonel's eulogy. The last tableau portrayed the moment when La Fayette offered his services to Washington. A finer blending of color in the magnificent dresses of the guests assembled in the drawing room, or more graceful attitudes of the company welcoming the young French officer, could hardly have been improvised. The scene of beauty and brightness will linger long in memory. As had been promised, Col. Slaughter, who was a personal friend of Thomas Jefferson, appeared in the dress of that framer of our Independence, and gave us an interesting description of the man and his home, which, by the kindness of the Colonel, we are enabled herewith to publish:

Monticello is the eastern terminus of the Southwest mountain of Virginia, and from it is presented a panorama of mountain, dale and river of unequalled beauty.

Not the least interesting feature is the University, founded and nurtured through the influence of Mr. JEFFERSON. It was the dream of his youth, the pride of his manhood, and the pet of his old age. Mountains in all ages have been deemed holy places and the scenes of great events. On Mount Ararat rested the Ark, the means and emblem of human salvation. On Mount Moriah, Abraham was commanded to sacrifice his son, emblematic of a still greater sacrifice. From Mount Sinai was promulgated the law of the Most High. From Mount Pisgah the enraptured eye beheld the land flowing with milk and honey. The sermon on the Mount was preached in love to a fallen race. The Savior of mankind was transfigured on a Mount, and yet from another he ascended to heaven. The lovers of poesy and of song pay their homage at Parnassus, and the disciples of liberty make pilgrimages to Monticello. In mind, manner and person, THOMAS JEFFERSON was the most accomplished man I ever saw. His mind was far-reaching, all-embracing, almost intuitive, and struggled to accomplish what no mind ever did, to grasp all the sciences; hence he was in many things more superficial than profound; but in his knowledge of the genius and character of his countrymen, and of the governmental institutions adapted to their character, in short, as an American statesman, he was the first man of his day. In stature he was about six feet two inches in height, of perfectly developed form, and might have served as a model for the statue of Apollo. His eyes were blue, his hair light, slightly tinged with red, and his whole face beamed with cheerfulness, that badge of a gentleman, while his conversation was fascinating, brilliant and instructive. His step was elastic, his movements graceful, blending ease with dignity, and his whole manner cordial and affectionate. With his sanguine, bilious temperament, and his enthusiastic love of liberty, it is not wonderful that while Minister to France during the French revolution, where he was admired and feted by the *savans*, the literati, and especially by the illuminati of the gay and voluptuous city of Paris, he should have become tinctured with red republicanism, that moral pestilence which swept over that devoted country, destroying most that was valuable and profaning all that was sacred. He returned to America fully imbued with French philosophy, French politics and French manners. The contagion spread with wonderful rapidity throughout our country, until the people were nearly evenly divided between those who sympathized with the French and those who sympathized with the English. Nothing but the firmness and the wisdom with which the greatest of all great men, GEORGE WASHINGTON, guided the ship of state, enabled us to escape those whirlpools of anarchy and despotism which threatened to engulf European states. Mr. JEFFERSON himself, in after years, when president of the United States, alluded in a semi-apologetic tone, in his inaugural message, to the

excitement under which he had labored, by saying 'during the throes and convulsions of the old world, during the agonizing spasms of infuriated man, seeking through blood and slaughter his long lost liberty, it is not wonderful that the agitation of the billows should have reached this distant and peaceful shore.' He was the first statesman who taught the inherent and inalienable right of all men to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; the first to advocate the emancipation of the slaves; the first to discover the great secret of perpetuating American freedom by a division of power, in such a manner as to bring the government to each man's door. He taught the sovereignty of the people and their right to self government. He practiced what he taught, and no man mingled more freely with them in all their social relations. He died full of years and honors, and was buried at his beautiful residence, Monticello, and when I was there last a single marble slab covered the grave."

Those in costume were now called to the senate chamber and arranged for presentation to Lady and Gen. WASHINGTON. This ceremony was a charming feature of the evening. On a slightly raised dais stood Lady W., and by her side her husband. The personages presented appeared in the following order, as nearly as remembered, and if any are omitted, it is owing to the bewildering brilliancy of the pageant:

"THOMAS JEFFERSON"—personated by Col. SLAUGHTER.
"Mr. and Mrs. SAMUEL ADAMS"—by Gen. and Mrs. ATWOOD.
"Mr. and Mrs. JOHN ADAMS"—by Gen. SMITH and Mrs. THORP.
"Mrs. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS"—by Mrs. H. P. HALL.
"Minister VON BORKEL and daughter"—by Col. and Mrs. KEYES.
"Mrs. MADISON"—by Mrs. ABEL DUNNING.
"Baron STEUBEN"—by Dr. INGMAN.
Mrs. INGMAN bore a name not understood.
"Lady CATHERINE DUER"—by Miss SCHLEY.
"Miss CHEW"—by Miss NELLY SCHLEY.
"Marquis de LA FAYETTE"—by Mr. CABANNE.
"Mrs. BINGHAM"—by Miss ATWOOD.
"Mrs. JOHN JAY"—by Miss KITTY ATWOOD.
"Mrs. CHARLES CARROLL"—by Mrs. TRUMAN BIRD.
"Bishop WHITE"—by Dr. VILAS.
"Capt. WHITTLESEY"—by Mr. C. N. GREGORY.

Miss Fuller's name was not heard, and, it may be, others have escaped memory.

After the dance (the Lancers) by those in costume, the company were most agreeably surprised by the sound of the piano, touched by the skillful fingers of Mrs. Ole Bull, and the floor was cleared for the *Minuet.* Soon Madam Staines, adorned with her natural crown of glory, and her daughter, Mrs. Cram, who had anticipated the flight of time by a very becoming transformation of dress, appeared leading out in andante measures the stately steps of the time-honored dance. Its intricate but smooth, undulating movements enabled one to appreciate the remark of a French writer, who exclaims, "Alas! life is too short to master the mysteries of the *Minuet.*"

Many thanks are due these obliging ladies for giving us this sweet glimpse of the past, and enabling this generation to observe how calmly our ancestors took their pleasures, while from it a lesson of modesty and dignity may be taught many a modern lover of the terpsichorean art. The remainder of the entertainment was relinquished to the dancers of all ages, while many retired satiated with the crowded enjoyments of the hours already past. Too little perhaps has been said of the court dresses worn by both gentlemen and ladies — in one word, they were grand and glittering. Our own reflection is, that we have improved upon our ancestors, by simplicity of adornment, and especially that gentlemen's dress now far excels that of "Auld Lang Syne," when Samuel Pepys "ripped the gold lace off his wife's wedding petticoat to trim his new suit." The effect of lower limbs unclothed, save by silk hose, is to remind one of the biped fowl and suggests too a feeble foundation for the flowing and richly dight upper garments, surmounted by the o'ershadowing wig. Our eye may be at fault, but our Apollo wears a full

suit of black broadcloth. Thus has passed our long anticipated July celebration, and we feel assured it will be long cherished in memory. As a fitting finale, guests from Milwaukee and elsewhere were refreshed, last evening, with an excursion at sunset and by moonlight on a lake which has scarcely a rival this side of Como —

"In those twin boats, unknown of yore,
On winding lake or rivers wide,
That ask no aid of sail or oar,
Nor fear the force of wind and tide."

MRS. J. D. BUTLER,
Secretary W. S. C. C.

SECOND MEETING AT BELOIT.

THE CENTENNIAL OF BUNKER HILL — HOW THE LADIES OF BELOIT HONORED IT.

The one hundredth anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill was celebrated in Beloit with due enthusiasm. The selection of Opera Hall for this entertainment was a happy thought, it being by far the best adapted of any room in the city for such a display. On entering it visitors were at once struck with the beautiful arrangement and cheerful appearance of the entire hall, and upon close inspection every detail was found to bear careful scrutiny and each department to have some well defined relation to the general plan of a congratulatory celebration of one of the marked events in the great Revolution which secured our Nation lasting peace and prosperity. A multitude of rare works of art, Revolutionary relics, and other curious and costly things were

displayed around the room in very attractive manner; over the platform were hung two ancient swords crossed upon each other, surrounded by shields, wreath and epaulets and the bird of wisdom perched above them all, significant of peace and good will between the two great nations which a hundred years ago met with swords unsheathed. In the corner beyond was one of the most attractive features of all. Across the corner, midway between floor and ceiling were the words, "International Exhibition," in living green, with back ground of white, with the date also in green, above, "1775, June 17, 1875." Directly over this hung a United States flag, bullet rent and battle stained (it was carried by Col. Crane's regiment in the late war), its folds now resting peacefully upon those of an English flag at the right and a Norwegian flag at the left. Beyond the latter hung the handsome banner of Ireland, at the extreme left the German colors, and at the extreme right a perfect specimen of the stars and stripes. In proximity to this interesting collection of bunting, were displayed pictures of the Centennial Exhibition buildings, a certificate of Centennial stock, and a collection of small flags and flowers. In the corner beneath was an attractive exhibition of choice articles from different parts of the world, and in front stood a table upon which a variety of Centennial medals were displayed for sale. Delicious refreshments were served at numerous tables, the charming waitresses, attired in white ruffled aprons and fancy caps with red and blue ribbons, attending to every want in the most fascinating manner. About half-past nine o'clock Mayor Davis announced the literary portion of the programme, introducing Rev. G. S. Hubbs as the first speaker. Mr. Hubbs made a few very apt and facetious remarks somewhat at the expense of the legal fraternity who had been invited to talk but declined, and called attention to the

practical matter of the medals which the ladies were desirous of selling for the benefit of the Centennial treasuries.

Mr. Hill then read, in a most impressive manner, Oliver Wendell Holmes' grand poem descriptive of the momentous conflict of a century ago. Prof. Emerson was next announced, and spoke for a few minutes most eloquently. He said if the lawyers had responded to the calls made upon them, we should have had the legal aspects and consequences of the revolution presented to us, and so he found it the natural thing for him to do to speak from an educational point of view. He then referred to the law of our forefathers providing that when any community numbered fifty families, a teacher should be employed at public expense, and to the subsequent enlarged and steadily increasing facilities provided for the education of the people. And so the nation grew to be an educated people. When the revolution came, our fathers had gone through with the nouns and adjectives of their great lessons, and took up the verb to be, to do and *to suffer*. We shall make no attempt to sketch the beautiful and wonderfully powerful culmination of the professor's speech. We hoped to obtain it in full, but find that it was wholly impromptu, and cannot be secured. The hall was held open during the following day and evening, and drew together quite a number to view the beautiful articles exhibited, and partake of the refreshments which were still abundant. Two valuable oil paintings, 500 years old, were brought in on the second day by Mr. Wm. McDowall, and attracted much attention.

The Beloit Club (ladies) will send to the Centennial a beautiful piece of work — woman's work in very truth. It represents the seal of Beloit College; is wrought in silk and chenille. The foundation is satin, gros-grain silk and velvet, all as white as snow. Its diameter must be at least three feet. The work is designed

and wrought by Miss Sarah T. Bodtker, who has been since June last diligently employed upon it, and it is no more than two-thirds completed. The central figure is an open Bible, with the surmounting dove and radiating light. Blue forget-me-nots surround this center; and this lovely wreath is in turn surrounded by the Latin college motto, lettered in chenille; these letters being in turn surrounded with the most delicate wreath of beautiful flowers, the sentiment of the flowers standing for the sentiment of the motto. It is quite impossible to give an idea of the delightful perfection of silken wreaths. A bullion embroiderd band separates this circle from the next, which gives the name of the college, etc.; these letters bearing tiny flags of all nations, in-wrought in their construction. This circle is yet incomplete; and surrounding the whole is yet to be another and more elaborate wreath of flowers. The work, from the gilt-edged Bible and perfect colored dove to the last stitch taken, is most exquisite. It is to be framed in a setting of black walnut, and will cost $500.

The Beloit Club has for its president, Mrs. T. L. Wright, a lady of taste and culture, with able aids in the other officers, who are efficient and enthusiastic.

RECORDS OF THE CENTENNIAL CLUB OF MILTON.

[Official Report.]

In the early part of May, 1875, there was a small gathering at the residence of Pres. W. C. Whitford for the purpose of organizing a club, in order that the ladies of Milton might take part in the approaching Centennial Anniversary at Philadelphia. Mrs. Pres. Whitford having been appointed chairman of the Centennial Committee for the town of Milton, chose for her

officers, Mrs. B. F. Collins, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Ferris, Secretaries; Mrs. Ralph Richardson and Mrs. Hall, Treasurers. After due consultation a constitution was adopted and a club organized.

A public meeting was held May 31st in the College Chapel, Mrs. Whitford in the Chair. Opening prayer by Rev. Wm. Walker. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Music by the College Choir. Rev. W. C. Whitford, President of Milton College, delivered an address in his clear and vigorous style, in which the past and present of our country were vividly contrasted. Elder Rogers then followed in a few excellent remarks. A song, "The Death of Warren," was sung by Prof. Stillman. At the close of the meeting names of members were solicited. From that time, regular meetings were held on the second Monday of each month, when were gathered all ages and classes —the wise and talented, the young and gay — all contributing to the entertainment and interest of the occasion.

The second meeting was held at the house of President Whitford; music by the Milton band. Mrs. Collins had prepared an excellent paper entitled, "Historic Reminiscences of the Past Century," which was listened to with marked attention. Her descriptions of the noble deeds performed by our forefathers stirred our souls and stimulated us to a holier, deeper love for our country, and with a just pride, as no country can boast a more grand and glorious history than ours. Mrs. Hall also, furnished an entertaining paper, rehearsing the heroic deeds, which have made our nation's flag "loved at home, revered abroad."

The next gathering was at the house of Rev. William Walker. Some eighty or one hundred members were present.

Mrs. Hall continued the history of the Revolutionary Struggle. Her essay was very interesting and profitable to all. Miss Mintie Howard and Miss Mary Ferris sang several patriotic songs and the Milton band furnished fine music in the oak grove beneath the moon-lit sky.

The home of Mr. Burdick was filled to overflowing on the occasion of the fourth reunion. Tableaux, music and patriotic songs made the evening pass agreeably.

We met next at Mr. R. Greenman's and Mr. Ralph Richardson's, where we were reminded of olden times by appropriate addresses, patriotic songs, and the costumes of by-gone days, when other generations filled our places.

A public meeting was held in the College Chapel, when Hon. Pliny Norcross of Janesville, delivered a lecture upon "The Relations of France with the American People in the Revolutionary Struggle." He eloquently protrayed the character of La Fayette and other noble Frenchmen, whose devotion to our country in her hour of need has been the admiration of the civilized world. The lecture was listened to with intense interest.

The eighth session was held at Mr. Dennis Burdick's. A paper was presented on "The Illustrious Women of the American Revolution," reminding us that the women of those days were brave, noble and true, and did their part for the freedom of their country with wonderful self-sacrifice and a heroism that has not been surpassed in the history of any people.

On the occasion of the next reunion, Mrs. Collins' residence was a scene of beauty and elegance; music by Miss Havens, and patriotic songs by Miss Howard in quaint costume; select reading by Prof. Saunders, and an essay by Miss Mary Bailey, entitled, "The Eminent Women of the Revolution."

The tenth meeting of the Club was held at Mr. Ezra Cran-

DALL'S, and was very enthusiastic and enjoyable. The tableaux and costumes of olden times, together with the colloquies were fine, and these pleasant social gatherings will long have a place in our memories.

The closing session, the last and best of all, convened on the evening of April 10, 1876. The College Chapel was filled with an enthusiastic and delighted audience. The officers of the Club appeared in the costume of one hundred years ago, and the members in the quaint and simple garb of the Quakers.

We had a Quaker meeting, a Quaker dialogue and a Quaker marriage. The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were of interest, and the Valedictory of the President was beautiful and impressive.

The minutes of each meeting are thus briefly outlined. In conclusion, we congratulate ourselves upon the success of our organization. We began with doubt and hesitation, but all of us, officers and members, feel amply repaid for all our efforts.

Mrs. C. H. WALKER,
Secretary Milton Centennial Club.

CENTENNIAL REUNION ON FOREFATHERS' DAY, AT THE CAPITOL,

Dec. 22, 1875.

In accordance with a suggestion made by the women composing the State Centennial Committee, the 255th aniversary of the Landing of the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock was duly celebrated in Madison on the evening of the 22d. The Assembly Chamber was chosen as the place for the entertainment, and it was tastily fitted up for this occasion. The Speaker's desk was decorated with beautiful plants and flowers. Behind it was

gracefully draped the flag of the Union, as also on the gallery directly opposite. The chandelier in the centre of the room was also hung with the Union colors. The central part of the floor was canvassed for dancing, and seats were circled round for the accommodation of guests during the literary part of the exercises.

ANNIVERSARY.

At 8 o'clock, Faust's Band performed a beautiful piece of music; at the conclusion of which, Mr. Atwood, President of the New England Society, called the audience to order, and remarked that this meeting was for a double or treble purpose; and for whichever purpose persons had come to aid, he was gratified, and would extend to all a cordial welcome. As a true New Englander, he had reverence for the Puritan Forefathers. As was well known, he had taken considerable interest in the Centennial Exhibition, to take place next year, and he was gratified in meeting such as had met in aid of that enterprise.

The Choir, consisting of Mrs. DeMoe, Mrs. Tryon, Mrs. B. M. Worthington, Miss Jennie Mills; Miss Moody, and Messrs. Richards, Bross, Hurd, Karich and Atwood, who had kindly volunteered for this special occasion — Mr. Atwood "pitching the tune," with a fork, in old style — then sung a portion of Mrs. Heman's beautiful New England Hymn, commencing —

"The breaking waves dash'd high,
On a stern and rock-bound coast."

THE DAY.

The President then announced the first sentiment as follows:

"The Day We Celebrate. — A memorial of Heroism and of Faith."

Rev. C. H. Richards happily responded. He prefaced his

remarks by promising if "brevity was the soul of wit" to make a very witty speech, and telling a story of a Scotch preacher whose example he did not propose to follow, who told a friend it would have done his heart good to see how tired he had made his congregation by preaching three hours on a stretch, and referring to evidence he had seen on the part of some young folks of a desire to exercise their heels and toes, and then said in substance:

"I am glad to say a word in favor of the Pilgrim Fathers. They are admired by those who understand them. They have been caricatured by others, till it is hard for those who hear them misrepresented to understand why it is worth while to be enthusiastic over our Forefathers. They picture the old Pilgrim as an austere, hard man, with his hair banged square across his forehead and hanging straight in orthodox stiffness down his back, with sharp elbows sticking into every body, in quaint, coarse dress, with hard, twanging voice, showing much of the white of his eyes as he praises God, but having little genuine sympathy with mankind. They read of the sternness with which they held their community to their ideas of right, and the soberness and strictness with which life was ordered among them. This does not seem to be the ideal life, and thinking this was all there was in the Pilgrim character, they refuse to admire it. But there are some things transient and ephemeral, and other things permanent. Fashions change, but some things never go out of fashion. Styles of dress come and go with the seasons, but dress itself is a fashion that never goes out. Forms of words grow obsolete and pass out of use, but language itself can never pass away. So there may be faulty and transient elements of character clustering about grand and permanent traits of manhood, and the first may or ought to grow obsolete and be dismissed, while the second shall be clung to and revered while the world lasts. Now the heroes of the *Mayflower* had their faults; faults peculiar to their age, and growing out of their reaction from the corrupt and frivolous life they were opposing. But the spots on the sun are not the main characteristic of that luminary. Whatever of undue austerity, lack of beauty, angularity of dress or demeanor, harsh twang in voice or social life, we find in the Puritan, we may dismiss without applause. It is only the rough wrapping of the diamond that hides its heart of fire. But the qualities that made them Pilgrims, and gave them a staunch, progressive manhood, worthy the admiration of all ages, were: their courage; their heroic devotion to principle; their dauntless love of liberty; their

loyalty to spiritual ideas, and their fidelity to God. These are traits that can never go out of fashion, elements of manhood that the world will revere and applaud as long as the sun shines. It was these characteristics that made their fellow-Puritans who remained in England the grandest men of their time. What are the greatest names of that age in English history? Not those of BUCKINGHAM, the elegant courtier, and CHARLES, the king; but the names of JOHN HAMPDEN, JOHN MILTON, the poet and politician, and OLIVER CROMWELL, the man of iron. Puritan heroes are the lustrous ones of that generation. And they were men of kindred principle, piety and heroism with the worthies of Plymouth Rock, whom we commemorate to-night; such men as Elder BREWSTER, Gov. BRADFORD, JOHN CARVER. If they were with us now, we should not see them as represented in tableaux, in old-style costume, with old-time ways, nor holding timidly on to outgrown fashions of thought or action. These men were not only abreast of their age—they were ahead of it, far in advance of the thought of their time; ahead of the most liberal leaders of England. If JOHN CARVER were living now, he would not be clad in antique garb, like a fossil; he would be, not in the sand hills of Cape Cod, but here in Wisconsin, perhaps editing a newspaper, Mr. President, seeking to carry forward his state, lifting his voice for reform, working for larger intelligence and sounder morals, saying, in the midst of corruption and wrong, "let no guilty man escape:" seeking to promote the truth, to lead the race up to noble manhood. He was ahead of his own age; he would be ahead of ours. We revere and praise, then, no ill-balanced and one-sided characters; no narrow minded and unprogressive fanatics; no bigots proud of being a century behind their age. The Puritans were the most progressive men of their times. They set the fashion of freedom in thought, worship and action for centuries to come. Such integrity, spiritual fervor, independent thought, loyalty to God, are the noble qualities of life, and we hope it may always be the fashion to admire them."

THE PILGRIM SHIP.

President ATWOOD announced the next toast:

"THE MAYFLOWER—wafted across the Atlantic to blossom on the shore of Massachusetts Bay, that it might seed a continent with the germs of liberty, piety and civilization."

Prof. J. D. BUTLER most happily responded as follows:

"The *Mayflower* was a miracle. A Mayflower in midwinter must be a mir-

acle — like snow at midsummer. It was a miracle that a vessel so unseaworthy brought over so many pilgrims, and all as safely as a Cunarder could. It is called a still greater miracle that the *Mayflower* carried none of the pilgrims back with her — 'not one man — not one woman.' But it is no miracle that the *Mayflower* sailed home empty. It would have been a greater miracle if any pilgrim had taken passage back. The *Mayflower* never walked the waters like a thing of life. She was so slow a sailer that the forefathers were five months on the way from Holland — twenty weeks! — twice the running time now-a-days round the terraqueous globe! They had less than two tons apiece of ship room; our laws grant more to emigrants. Again, sea-sickness is said to be like love-sickness — no great matter in the eyes of lookers-on — nor yet in those of victims when once fairly over it. Yet in truth it is no joke. Teetotalers give up liquor — but sea-tottlers give up everything — except the ghost. As soon as the anchor was heaved, more than one heaved a sigh so piteous and profound, that it did seem to shatter all his bulk. All put on those long faces, for which they are noted to this day. Hence they feared another voyage more than famine, pestilence, exile and Indians. Five months on the ocean made them stop in barren Plymouth, rather than push on to the fertile Hudson. Much more did those sea-months frighten them from recrossing the Atlantic. Thus the *Mayflower* saved Plymouth, when its founders would have run away had they dared. But for fear of the *Mayflower*, the spot where the pilgrims landed would have been known as Blunder Rock. Thanks to the *Mayflower*, it has become the Yankee blarney-stone. It was hard to make the pilgrims cross what they considered 'the greatest sea in the world,' but ten times harder to make them *re*cross it. So they were like a farmer's contrary calves. He must pull their ears off before they will begin their repast, and then pull their tails off before they will stop. Thus, thanks to the *Mayflower*, when the pilgrims had once landed, 'no meetinghouse was *sotter*.' as my toast has it, 'they seeded the continent with freedom, piety and civilization.' Here they found *freedom*. In quest of it they had given up business, property, England and Holland; had braved the ocean, Indians, and every variety of unknown horror. They escaped the yoke of loyalty, which maintains the divine right of kings to govern wrong — the yoke of union between church and state — which plows with an ox harnessed beside an ass — the yoke of primogeniture, that law of Cain which knocks down the second son — the yoke of conservatism, which cries, 'Touch not one cobweb on St. Pauls, for fear you shake the dome.' None of these yokes came over in the *Mayflower*, but seeds of freedom came with its pilgrims, which blossomed in 1776, and will ripen in 1876. Hence,

"'Their's is a watchword to the earth;
When man would do a deed of worth
He points to them, and turns to tread,
So sanctioned, on the tyrant's head;
He points to them and rushes on,
Where life is lost or freedom won.'

"The *Mayflower* brought the seeds of *piety*. The freedom it sowed was a prerequisite of piety. Forcing men to be pious must seem absurd, unless our creed is that

"'We can flog the Mexicans
Right into brotherly kindness,
That bombshells, grape and powder and ball
Are goodwill's strongest magnets,
And peace, to make it stick at all,
Must be *driv in with bagnets*.'

"Pilgrim piety was in theory — the Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible. In practice, it carried out the hard bargain it was forced to make for passage in the *Mayflower*, and less evil than we do or can. The *Mayflower* was a *civilizer*. It must be — bringing freedom and piety — while slaves and the irreligious can be no more than half civilized. The pilgrim ship brought civilization, for it brought *women*. Of its hundred souls, twenty-nine were women or girls. But for their presence, the Plymouthians at best would have been men half-finished, like the half breeds of Manitoba, or would have degenerated like the French in so many a colony. In after years more than one of the heroines recalling the landing year may have said to husband or lover:

"'Alack, what trouble was I then to you?'

"His answer must have been:

"'O a cherubim
Thou wast, that did preserve me. Thou didst smile;
Infused with a fortitude from heaven,
Thou still didst smile; thy smiles did raise in me
An undergoing spirit to bear up
Against whate'er ensued.'

"The *Mayflower* brought the germs of mechanic arts, reducing drudgery to its minimum and raising comfort to its maximum; of law, protecting the weak from

the strong, and the good from the bad; of science, forever increasing man's sovereignty in all domains of nature; of fine arts, refining by the miracles of sculpture, painting, music, architecture, poetry and eloquence. The *Mayflower* brought all these glories of civilization, for it brought that *middle class* who always create them; not the dregs and lees, nor yet the froth and foam of society. Its bright consummate flower we shall see at the Philadelphia Centennial. The *Mayflower* brought so much that I do not wonder that all villages in New England, and many out of it, abound in *Mayflower* chairs and cradles. Concerning every rococo heir-loom the Yankee says:

"'It came out in that famous bark,
Which bore our sires intrepid,
Capacious as another ark
For furniture decrepid.
As Noah saved a bird and beast,
A pair for propagation,
So has the seed of these increased,
And furnished half the nation.'

"This is only a vivid way of saying that we owe more than we can tell to the Mayflower. It is a legend in the same spirit with that of St. Apollonia. That maiden martyr had all her teeth torn out. But when gathered up they were found to be panaceas for tooth ache. They hence were in great demand, and sold at high prices. The result was that when Henry the VIII ordered every man who had a tooth of St. Apollonia to bring it to him in Westminster, he soon filled three barrels with those delicate little pearl-like wedges. But all the lager beer casks, and mash tubs in Milwaukee, and out of it, could not hold the blessings which freighted the Mayflower. That bark was small to the eye, but great to the mind, like the stars. It was in fact the cheapest vessel that could be chartered in London; but it rises before my imagination — etherealized by the moonlight of ancestral memories, and transcending the queenly state of Cleopatra, when

"'The barge she sat in, like a golden throne,
Burned on the water, the stern was beaten gold;
Purple the sails, and so perfumed, that
The winds were love-sick with them; the oars were silver,
Which to the tune of flutes kept stroke, and made
The water which they beat, to follow faster,
As amorous of their strokes.'

"Forever, then, bloom the Mayflower! having a fit emblem in its namesake, the earliest blossom of New England woods; the morning star of spring, — hiding under fallen foliage, — but exhaling a fragrance which, like the spring time, leaves no corner of the land unblessed. May May flowers make all our midwinter halcyon days!"

THE UNIVERSAL YANKEE.

The third sentiment was read:

"The Yankees Outside of New England. — Transplanting improves them."

The President said there was a gentleman present who claimed to be an outsider, but as his place of nativity was so near the New England line, he proposed to take him in; and called on Hon. J. C. Hopkins to respond. Judge Hopkins admirably responded substantially as follows:

"The Yankee had peculiarities which never wore off, and were never outgrown, making him to differ from the rest of mankind. The Yankee was different from any other nationality first settling in this country. The rough and exposed life of his mountain home was not conducive to high social culture, but gave him instead strong muscle, strong heart, great hope and an iron will. The fathers had small possessions and large families. They knew that their children must go out into the world and make for themselves their fortunes and their positions. Imbued with this sentiment, their children all had a good rudimentary education; the more wealthy, the benefit of their higher educational institutions. This was the case with both male and female, so that when they came to leave their paternal homes, they had their parents' energy and hope, and wherever they settled, and though assimilating with other nationalities, they at once exhibited marked traits of individualism. Wherever is found a New England settlement, there will be found the economy, thrift, perseverance, and contentions, particularly upon religious subjects, which characterized New England in her earlier days. The Yankee, away from New England, seemed to bring with him a section of New England, and introduced and advocated the laws and customs of his native land; so it was scarcely necessary for a man to be born in New England to be a Yankee, filled with the great American ideas. If his father or mother emigrated from there, he was a Yankee with some modern improvements. They had exercised

far more influence in the making of our laws, in advancing the settlement of our country and establishing our educational and charitable institutions than any other class. They occupied high and permanent positions in most of the states; for instance, in Wisconsin, one of our United States senators, our governor, and the heads of at least two of our leading educational institutions were of the class mentioned in the sentiment. The history of the first settlers of New York, the Dutch, particularly those who settled the Hudson and Mohawk Valley, had been very different. Their descendants had scarcely left the boundaries of the lands taken up by their ancestors. They had lived in luxury and wealth upon the vast estates with which their ancestors were endowed. We never hear, away from that locality, of the Van Rensselaers, Schuylers, Vanderpools, many of their more prominent families having become wholly extinct. They married and intermarried among their own class, and although highly cultivated, they lacked the sterner qualities of the New England character, to lead and direct the nation. The peculiarities of the Yankee often make him the subject of ridicule, but never of contempt. He believed a man had a right to occupy any place he could get; and whether he brought with him a shovel or box of class books when he came west, to improve his fortunes, he seemed possessed with the idea that he would rise to eminence, and worked diligently to that end. A shrewd observer of men and things, he more often succeeded than any other class, a most notable example of which might be seen in the manager of the great railroad corporation of this state. And an examination of our other industrial and great corporate interests would doubtless show that they were under management of some New England man, who originally came here as a laborer. It would, therefore, be seen that "the Yankee outside of New England," as a usual thing, occupied a proud and enviable position. He had great pride in New England, which he did not leave voluntarily, but was brought out in his mother's arms, and pride in the nation founded on New England ideas."

The choir then sung that good old New England tune, *Majesty*, with excellent effect.

NOW AND THEN.

The president then said that Miss Ella Wheeler, a young lady well known in this state, always ready to do nice things for nice occasions, had written a poem expressly for this entertainment, which was read in a manner to give full force to its beautiful passages, by Maj. Charles Geo. Mayers:

And now, when poets are singing
Their songs of olden days,
And now, when the land is ringing
With sweet Centennial lays,
My muse goes wandering backward
To the groundwork of all these,
To the time when our Pilgrim Fathers
Came over the winter seas.

The sons of a mighty kingdom,
Of a cultured folk were they,
Born amidst pomp and splendor,
Bred in it, day by day,
Children of bloom and beauty,
Reared under skies serene,
Where the daisy and hawthorne blossomed,
And the ivy was always green.

And yet, for the sake of freedom,
For a free religious faith,
They turned from home and people,
And stood face to face with death.
They turned from a tyrant ruler
And stood on a new world's shore,
With a waste of waters behind them,
And a waste of land before.

Oh, men of a great Republic;
Of a land of untold worth;
Of a nation that has no equal
Upon God's round green earth;
I hear you sighing and crying
Of the hard, close times at hand;
What think you of those old heroes,
On the rock 'twixt sea and land.

The bells of a million churches
Go ringing out to-night,
And the glitter of palace windows
Fills all the land with light;

And there is the home and college,
  And here is the feast and ball,
And the angels of peace and freedom
  Are hovering over all.

They have no church, no college,
  No banks, no mining stock;
They had but the waste before them,
  The sea and Plymouth Rock.
But there in the night and tempest,
  With gloom on every hand,
They laid the first foundation
  Of a nation great and grand.

There were no weak repinings,
  No shrinking from what might be,
But with their brows to the tempest,
  And with their backs to the sea,
They planned out a noble future,
  And planted the corner-stone
Of the grandest, greatest republic
  The world has ever known.

Oh women in homes of splendor,
  Oh lilly-buds frail and fair,
With fortunes upon your fingers,
  And milk-white pearls in your hair,
I hear you longing and sighing
  For some new fresh delight;
But what of those Pilgrim mothers
  On that December night?

I hear you talking of hardships,
  I hear you moaning of loss,
Each has her fancied sorrow,
  Each bears her self-made cross.
But they, they had only their husbands,
  The rain, the rock, and the sea;
Yet, they looked up to God and blessed him,
  And were glad because they were free.

Oh grand old Pilgrim heroes,
Oh souls that were tried and true,
With all of our proud possessions
We are humbled at thought of you.
Men of such might and muscle,
Women so brave and strong,
Whose faith was fixed as the mountains,
Through a night so dark and long.

We know of your grim, grave errors,
As husbands and as wives;
Of the rigid bleak ideas
That starved your daily lives;
Of pent-up, curbed emotions,
Of feelings crushed, suppressed,
That God with the heart created
In every human breast.

We know of that little remnant
Of British tyranny,
When you hunted Quakers and witches,
And swung them from a tree;
Yet back to a holy motive,
To live in the fear of God,
To a purpose high, exalted,
To walk where martyrs trod,

We can trace your gravest errors,
Your aim was fixed and sure;
And e'en if your acts were fanatic,
We know your hearts were pure.
You lived so near to heaven,
You overreached your trust,
And deemed yourselves creators,
Forgetting you were but dust.

But we with our broader visions,
With our wider realm of thought,
I often think would be better
If we lived as our fathers taught.

Their lives seemed bleak and rigid,
  Narrow and void of bloom;
Our minds have too much freedom,
  And conscience too much room.

They overreached in duty,
  They starved their hearts for the right.
We live too much in the senses,
  We bask too long in the light.
They proved by their clinging to Him
  The image of God in man;
And we, by our love of license,
  Strengthen a Darwin's plan.

But bigotry reached its limit,
  And license must have its sway,
And both shall result in profit
  To those of a later day.
With the fetters of slavery broken,
  And freedom's flag unfurled,
Our nation strides onward and upward,
  And stands the peer of the world.

Spires and domes and steeples,
  Glitter from shore to shore;
The waters are white with commerce,
  The earth is studded with ore;
Peace is sitting above us,
  And plenty with laden hand,
Wedded to sturdy labor,
  Goes singing through the land.

Then let each child of the nation
  Who glories in being free,
Remember the Pilgrim Fathers
  Who stood on the rock by the sea;
For there in the rain and tempest
  Of a night long passed away,
They sowed the seeds of a harvest
  We gather in sheaves to-day.

THE WOMEN.

The fifth toast was then read:

"The Women of 1776 and of 1876.—The first shone as morning stars in the Nation's day dawn; the second fill its meridian with sunlight."

The President said it would be a difficult task to respond to this sentiment, but he would call on Gen. Edward E. Bryant, who, he was confident, would be equal to the occasion, as was demonstrated by the General's very eloquent speech, substantially as follows:

"It is difficult to say why, of all others, he had been called on to respond to this sentiment. He was not a witty man like Mr. Richards. The pulpit, now-a-days, was saying all the sparkling things, monopolizing the wit and humor, and leaving to the bar to preach the prosy lessons of man's duty to man. He could not respond like Prof. Butler, with a mind stored with gems of thought gathered from the literary mines of every age and clime; nor like Gen. Atwood, with the happy faculty of saying the right thing in the right place; nor like the gifted poetess, whose offering had just been read, could he express thoughts of beauty in words of sweetness; nor in the calm, stately dignity of Judge Hopkins, whose "word was law." He thought he must have been selected because he was a philosopher, as defined by Macauley, as one who, with a moderate veneration for the past, had an abounding faith in the present and the future. The women of 1776 were worthy helpmeets of the heroes of that eventful time. The days that "tried men's souls," tried the hearts of women, as well. She walked the rugged path of duty, side by side, with the other, but not stronger sex, in the Revolution, as she has done lovingly, devotedly, wherever man has dared or suffered for conscience or for liberty. But the women of 1876 are worthy of their noble lineage. He was not of that school of croakers who claimed that the simple and homely virtues of the early days were extinct; who point to the past as the heroic age, or the age of greater virtue or higher devotion to duty. A hundred years of Christian civilization, diffusing a broader charity, a more tolerant and loving spirit, had not been lost upon woman. The women of 1876 are an improved and revised edition of those of 1776, in perhaps a little more expensive binding. She is like the jewel, which, as we read in the Oriental tale, the fairy gave to the prince to wear upon his breast. At the court it was a gem

noticeable only for its beauty and brilliancy, apparently only an ornament; but in battle it became a shield, and turned aside the darts aimed at his breast, and a talisman which rendered harmless the poisoned arrows with which he might be pricked. So in the peaceful social circle woman is its ornament and shining jewel, but when the shafts of adversity come, she is the shield, the comforter, the consoler and guardian angel, who, sharing our sorrows, robs them of their poison. God bless the noble women of our time. The wives, mothers, sisters, daughters of 1876 would have honored the good old days, and a larger culture had enlarged her capacities to render aid and comfort. In the war, whose marks of desolation are still visible in our land, she had been a blessed angel. She had hovered on the borders of the battlefield, and ere the sabre had rested in its sheath or the cannon's lips grown cold, she hastened to bind the wounds which bled. In the fevered wards of the military hospitals she had come to soothe the anguish of the sufferer, and by her presence and her kindness, to remind him of his dear, dear home. While mercy was an attribute of Heaven, as long as to relieve the distressed was the highest exercise of Christian duty, so long would the noble part taken by woman in the late war be sacredly remembered. There live to-day hundreds of Wisconsin soldiers, who, but for the untiring labors of Mrs. HARVEY, one of our noble women, and her strong pleadings in their behalf, would now be sleeping in the south, in the shallow grave of the soldier. Her energy secured for them a transfer north, to the bracing air of their own clime. Her name, doubly written in honor upon the brightest pages of Wisconsin's history, was also written in deep lines of gratitude on many a soldier's heart. She is but a conspicuous representative of thousands of women of 1876, who did more to assuage the suffering and mitigate the horrors of war than had ever been done before. He would not raise a note of discord in the expression of homage and veneration which rose like the tones of an anthem from the hearts of all New Englanders on this day, toward the Pilgrim Fathers. But Forefathers' Day always reminded him of a traditionary family grievance suffered by his ancestor at old Plymouth, and inherited as a grudge. That ancestor did not come over in the *Mayflower*. Too prudent to hazard his life or his fortune in a doubtful experiment, he waited till Plymouth Colony was a success, and then came over. Being of a philosophical turn of mind, he had experimented before emigration with the newly imported tobacco weed, until he had formed and enjoyed the habit of smoking. Having landed, he lighted his pipe and walked out to view the wonders of a new world. The Pilgrim Fathers looked upon him with austere astonishment, and forthwith he was apprehended and brought before the council of Plymouth and fined; and to this day the sentence stands recorded: "JOHN BRYANT,

1s. 2d. for smokinge of tobackoe in ye hyghewaye," an enduring mark of infamy upon the family name. But the worthy ancestor paid the fine; soon after, loved and married a Puritan maiden, as good and as fair as PRISCILLA, immortalized in the poem; and became the founder, in New England, of a family who, like himself, loved to eat, drink and smoke what they chose, without prohibitory laws; and think and believe as their own judgment and conscience dictated, and who, like him, were devotedly loyal to the ladies. The old gentleman in his late years received promotion from the same council who had sat in judgment upon him as stated. He was appointed a commissioner to divide a pile of rails which were the subject of controversy, and he performed the duties of the office with that judicial fairness and impartiality which, inherited, is the characteristic of all his posterity.

"Woman, in art, in science, in poetry and song, as well as heroism, has gained enviable fame. She has in literature taught us lessons which we read in smiles and tears. She has given us poems which we wear in memory as diamonds. She is to-day opening for herself avenues of usefulness and industry in a thousand directions. Let her go on, and God speed her. Let her rival the poet, the sculptor, the painter, the physician; let her turn the clerk and book keeper out of doors. Let her do all this. But the speaker playfully said he hoped she would not become an office seeker nor apply for admission at the bar. He preferred not to come in competition with her. She would coax verdicts out of the jury and rulings out of the court, by those irresistibly winning ways, which neither youth nor age of the musculine gender could withstand. Even with such stern judges as HOPKINS, such venerable jurors as ATWOOD and SLAUGHTER, logic and demonstration would be weak when a woman plead for a verdict. With ladies for lawyers, COKE and BLACKSTONE would be obsolete, and the wish of a pretty woman would override the constitution and be the supreme law of the land. Not any lady lawyers if you please."

LEGENDS OF THE LAKES.

The last toast was as follows:

"THE LEGENDS OF THE LAKES. — A heritage older than the Pilgrims, and offered by the Wisconsin women as their Centennial gift to the Nation, to be a perpetual possession."

To this, a beautiful poetical response by an authoress who does not wish her name announced, was well read by Maj. C. G. MAYERS, as follows:

A mirror for the bending sky,
Is fair Mendota's breast,
Bringing the wondrous glories nigh,
That tint the glowing west.

Opal and gold and crimson rays
Alternate meet and blend;
The diamond's light in beauty plays,
And sapphire hues descend.

Then sweetly, as an infant breathes,
Is each soft passion stilled;
A mist, like sacred incense, wreathes,
And the rapt soul is filled.

Here the Great Spirit holds his sway,
And guards it for his own;
The twilight hours of each fair day,
Bring offerings to His throne;

And calm Monona's gentle voice,
Is wafted on the air,
As fairies mingle, and rejoice,
In mortal bliss to share.

Moonlit, as are the dreams of youth,
Their spell comes floating back,
With deep'ning shadows from the truth;
"Each heart knows its own lack."

So fair the scenes, so true the chords;
They waken all anew;
We list again to magic words,
Fresh with love's sparkling dew.

The legends of the lakes repeat
The mysteries of life,
In numbers, and in tones so sweet,
That we forget its strife.

ORIGINAL HYMN, DISPATCHES, ETC.

The President announced that the New England celebration exercises would close with the singing of an original hymn (of which it has since transpired Mrs. A. C. Thorp is the authoress), and called attention to the choice candies for the benefit of the Centennial memorial fund, which were the gift of Miss Martha Peet of Beloit, who was present on this occasion, and who had been very active and efficient in Centennial as in every good work. The choir and audience then joined in singing, to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne," the following:

A Bark once launched, with many a prayer,
Upon the angry sea,
Bore hearts of steel and women fair
To work out Liberty.
The centuries have passed between
Us and their deeds so grand,
And silent in the vast unseen,
Await our Pilgrim band.

The seed that fell on Plymouth Rock,
Bears golden fruit to-day;
The patience and the battle's shock
Have paved a shining way.
With rev'rence for our noble sires,
Their sons and daughters sing.
Our altars glow with patriot fires,
And loud Hosannas ring.

In seventeen hundred seventy-six
Old Independence Hall
Struck the key note whose numbers rich
Still echo to our call.
We celebrate a century!
The stars and stripes fling out,
And let them wave for Liberty,
While we glad pæans shout.

While this was being sung, the following dispatch was received from the president and secretary of the Beloit Centennial Club, and read by the president:

BELOIT, WIS., *December 22, 1875.*

To Gen. ATWOOD, *United States Centennial Commissioner, and* Mrs. A. C. THORP, *Chairman of the Executive Committee:*

Forefathers' Day bids fair to close with due honor to seventeen seventy-six (1776), and with pride and good cheer of loyal hearts and purses for eighteen seventy-six (1876).

Mrs. ISRAEL WILLIAMS, *President.*
JULIA A. SALMON, *Assistant Secretary.*

The above was responded to as follows:

MADISON, WIS., *December 22, 1875.*

Mrs. ISREAL WILLIAMS *and* JULIA A. SALMON, *Beloit, Wis.:*

"Many daughters have done virtuously, but ye have excelled them all." Greeting of the Sons of the Pilgrims to Pilgrim Daughters.

DAVID ATWOOD.

A warm and kindly greeting to you who celebrate with us Forefathers' Day.

A. C. THORP.

THE SOCIAL DANCE.

At about 10 o'clock the central part of the floor of the Assembly Chamber was cleared for dancing. The first dance on the programme was the "Roger de Coverly," named after an Addisonian society character of some 150 years ago and like unto the Virginia Reel. It was very gracefully danced by a score of young lads and misses, tastefully attired in the costume of the olden times, and was a delight not only to the young participants, but to all beholders. Other dances of the modern time were participated in with zest, to the music of FAUST's band, by young and old.

Mrs. THORP, and those of the Centennial Clubs of the city who

aided her in getting up this entertainment, and such New Englanders as bore a hand, have reason to congratulate themselves on having been eminently successful in securing a worthy celebration of Forefathers' Day, and giving all who accepted the invitation a most delightful evening of varied enjoyment.

THE CENTENNIAL AT GREEN BAY.

There was published in the *Daily Gazette*, of Green Bay, for January 14th, the following call for a meeting of the ladies of Green Bay:

> The ladies of Green Bay and Fort Howard are earnestly requested to meet in the parlor of Cook's Hotel, Saturday afternoon at 5:30, to meet Miss PEET, of Beloit, Vice-Chairman of the Women's Centennial Committee of Wisconsin. It is not too late even now for Green Bay, the oldest town in the state, and "the place where the Gospel has been preached for over 200 years," to be represented in this great work. Let all who are interested and all who are not, come to the meeting and hear what Miss PEET can tell us.
>
> MRS. C. D. ROBINSON, *Chairman.*

Saturday afternoon, between twenty and thirty ladies responded to the invitation. After being introduced to the ladies by the local chairman, Miss PEET stated, as concisely as possible, what the women of Wisconsin had already done and proposed doing, and then went on to say that nearly a year ago, Mrs. THORP, the Chairman of the State, had appointed Mrs. CHARLES D. ROBINSON to the position of Chairman for Green Bay and Brown county, who, from various causes, had declined accepting till now; but it was not yet too late for Green Bay to secure her representative name on the tablet of the memorial shrine; and that name all agreed should be Mrs. JEREMIAH PORTER, whose

services in the church, hospitals, and in establishing schools at the South, entitled her to that place. We could truly say of her, "many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all."

Miss PEET then gave the ladies, in her own concise and expressive words, an idea of the Memorial Shrine, an exhibit which the State Committee had assigned to her special charge and control: "It is to be beautiful in design, of carved ebony and ornamented with medallions upon which will be paintings of Wisconsin scenery, and lined with silver plates. Upon these plates will be engraved the names of localities, individuals and Centennial Clubs who aid in the Centennial work. An inner tablet will be for the few whose services to humanity give them preëminence. As all this requires money, it has been proposed to raise the amount by asking certain sums from each organization. This, with other exhibits, which will make up the Centennial history of Wisconsin, will be deposited with the archives of the State and preserved. One hundred years hence, they are to be opened and the names of the public spirited men and women of the day made known to our descendants, who will find the names of many there, we may hope, well known to fame."

Mrs. ROBINSON then rose to explain why she had not accepted the position. When Mrs. THORP wrote her, sending her appointment and asking her to accept, she was suffering from prostration which unfitted her for such duties; but Mrs. THORP would not accept that as a sufficient reason, knowing, she wrote, that there were many women in Green Bay to do the work. She gave a still more potent reason, which was the financial depression here affecting all classes. When the people of Green Bay undertook any project, they were in the habit of carrying it out in such a manner as to do credit to themselves and their

well earned reputation. She appealed to the ladies present to bear witness to the liberality of our Green Bay people. It was time Green Bay should have some part in the Centennial history of Wisconsin, and now that so little was asked of us (to raise one hundred dollars), she did not doubt it could be done promptly and gladly. She then read the names of an honorary committee comprised of well known old settlers, representing the thirteen original states.

The ladies present then put down their names as members, and after some general conversation it was decided to invite Mrs. Thorp to come here and recognize the organization and encourage and strengthen us by her presence and inspiring words. After the singing of a Centennial hymn, the meeting adjourned to meet again next Tuesday at the same place, and it was hoped with largely increased numbers.

The following call was published in the *Daily Gazette*, for Monday and Tuesday:

CENTENNIAL CLUB.

The Women's Centennial Club of Green Bay will have a reception at the parlors of Cook's Hotel, to meet Mrs. J. G. Thorp, of Madison, Chairman for the State, Tuesday evening, January 18th, at 8 o'clock. All interested are cordially invited to be present. Mrs. C. D. Robinson, *Chairman.*

The evening was dark and cloudy, following a stormy day, but a pleasant party of ladies and gentlemen met Mrs. Thorp and Miss Peet in the parlor of Cook's Hotel. Miss Wells opened the evening's entertainment with singing, followed by a Centennial hymn sung by all. Rev. William Crawford made the opening address, which was very witty, pleasant and apropos, introducing Mrs. Thorp to the meeting. She then read the following able address, replete with beautiful thoughts, charmingly

expressed, delivered distinctly and delightfully, affording to all present so rare and delectable a treat, we could not but pity those who were prevented from enjoying it:

MRS. THORP'S ADDRESS.

Ladies and Gentlemen: — Those of us who have been longest in the centennial field in our own state have been at work only a few months; divining our way with but few definite aims of a practical character. We commenced, stirred by patriotic impulses, and with a desire to share in our grand Centennial Jubilee. We had also other incentives, which we know not how to define. We realized the fact, that the tone of womanhood should be elevated and strengthened, and we felt that this national movement furnished the golden opportunity which had never before occurred. Vague and indefinite as were our ideas, we could not be indifferent to the invitation given us, to add our mite, in our own way, to the grand aggregate. We found ourselves launched and in the midst of practical issues, before we were fully aware of the venture we had made, we reached forth for wise headed and strong hearted women to join hands with us and make the labor pleasant. With few exceptions, the response has been, we desire to aid, but know not how to commence, and this *has been* the difficult problem we have been required to solve. Unaccustomed as we are to broad spheres of action, we are timid and distrustful of our own abilities, and the first lesson we have to learn is, to "be kindly affectioned one toward another;" charitable rather than critical. This spirit controlling our deliberations, it is wonderful to see how *much* women can accomplish. Their activity of mind, rapidity of suggestion and execution are remarkable. Habits of concentration and method soon become easy, and the feminine side of life expresses itself in material, intellectual and æsthetic forms, giving satisfactory evidence of the still undeveloped resources of womanhood. For this reason, if for no other, it is fitting that women awake to the glorious inspirations of eighteen hundred and seventy six! In our own State, we have aimed to have our exhibits illustrate thought, culture and aspiration. Our finances being so limited, we are obliged to tax ingenuity in devising ways and means to secure meritorious articles for this purpose. We are laboring to furnish a few well chosen, and if possible, elegant representations from the women of our State — at the same time touching the key note of united sympathies and coöperative effort, hoping that every locality, great and small, from our political and commercial centers, to the faintest echo of our most distant pinery, will unite to swell the chorus. We have reason to know that the requisite ability is not lack-

ing, while we also understand that most of us have spent our lives in labors and accomplishments which we cannot now concentrate for purposes of exhibition. We have the grateful and sustaining consciousness that our treasures are in our homes and our seminaries of learning — and we would rather unfold mind and heart in active, earnest thought, in union of sentiment and purpose, making our lives and the lives of our children grander and more beautiful, than to over tax nerve and brain, in the manipulation of handiwork, which is as ephemeral as it is useless. It is the soul that lives, the aims and purposes that give vigor and coloring to life, and these are greatly strengthened by the love and sympathy which come of united effort. Women are not accustomed to aid each other, negatively speaking. It is not necessary to add anything in reference to the reverse side of this statement, as we all understand our true status in this respect, and the many reasons therefor. But the remedy is within our own hands. In efforts like the one now called for, we learn to respect the ability which accomplishes so much with so few facilities at command and so many obstacles to be overcome. While home is woman's sphere *par excellence*, the basis and incentive of all her actions, *for the sake of home*, she needs the refreshing and toning influences that come from other sources. She needs change and contact with minds bearing similar responsibilities — in short, she needs to contemplate and gain wisdom from every subject and every phase of life. She will, through the avenues of affection and sympathetic attraction naturally, bring all she gathrs in these ways, and lay it upon the altar of home, for her loved ones to share. American homes are the model homes of the world, and American women should be the representative women of the world, as they are allowed broader scope in every sense, than the women of any other nation. They have only to devise wise plans, to be executed in womanly ways, to insure success. We love our country. Our national home is as dear to us, as are our individual homes and the affection is as legitimate.

Victor Hugo says: ' Woman is the problem of the nineteenth century." We have reason to anticipate that the new era will be one full of interest and prolific in development for woman. Let us be awake to the interests involved — making ourselves sharers in the establishment of all that is pure and true for ourselves and our country. Let women express themselves by their contributions, in ways that call into action their higher faculties. However small the tribute in a financial sense, let it be heartily and gracefully given, as at a loving family reunion. Let all our decorations be suggestive of ideas and sentiments, and we shall find ourselves in the prosecution of our work, in sympathy with the most cultured thought of the world, able to understand and appreciate the inspirations of master minds in the realms of art. While we do not presume to suggest methods in detail for localities,

we hope to take each other by the hand and go "*forward.*" Let us all embark together with the noble purpose of giving and receiving in accordance with the great law of compensation which God has established. Our bark is a small one and will make but a faint ripple upon the great national and international current which is daily and hourly surging with the inflowing tide of multiplied tributaries. But we look forward to the time when with song and cheer, the American people will unitedly and proudly launch their grand old ship of State upon its broad bosom with all its precious freightage, culled from every land and clime. The spirit of liberty which inspired and sustained our forefathers as they landed from the *Mayflower* and knelt upon Plymouth Rock, is still, thank God, our presiding genius. They gave us a prophetic symbol, a grand *tableau vivant*, unconsciously delineating mental and moral qualities which have and will distinguish America's sons and daughters, from independence, seventeen hundred and seventy-six to centennial, eighteen hundred and seventy-six, and from century to century. The firmness and power evinced by men, the suffering and endurance of women these hundred years have silently witnessed. We are again brought face to face with these persons and scenes, and the finger of God is pointing out to us with renewed significance our obligations as the inheritors of a destiny so dearly bought. Let us give new allegiance to the worth and grandeur embodied in the simplicity, faith and integrity, which are the treasures of our royal birthright. Let its beautiful heraldry be painted upon canvas, wrought in needlework, carved in wood and sculptured in marble by the men and women of to-day, as loving mementoes to be preserved in our national archives for those of the next century to behold and emulate, as we now review and hallow the spirit and genius of seventy-six. May our names and memories be as dear to our posterity by the sacred influences of faith in God and love to humanity, as are those of our Pilgrim fathers and mothers to us and our children; as the drum beat of the *reveille* upon the ear of the sleeping soldier is the voice of our jubilee falling with musical cadence upon our awakening sensibilities. The centuries are clasping hands, currents of thought and inspiration are mingling, until the surging air is vital with holy enthusiasm. The women of the world are invited to aid in swelling the commemorative offerings of this glad era. Men have wrought, struggled and achieved, always inspired, and in times of great national emergency, they have been directly aided by women. But we have nevertheless been passing through the iron age — its pressure is still upon us, and we are weary with the weight. We find ourselves to-day standing upon the threshold of a more enlightened order of civilization, where different combinations are required to nobler ends, as God reveals the way. We need not stop to analyze critically; we have only to advance, heeding our best im-

pulses without fear; for He whom by faith we discern goeth before us and is sufficient for us. In the true elevation of woman in her emancipation from the thralldom of fashion and the dissipations of social life, in adherence to right standards of education and in fidelity to true domestic relations lies the still undemonstrated problem of our country's prospective glory. The treasures of material and intellectual wealth embraced within her first centennial cycle and cemented by the love and loyalty of a united people, will symbolize to us and to the world the great *Arc de Triomphe* of American liberty. Its entablatures inscribed with the names and deeds of her honored heroes; its decorations, the emblems and insignia of progress in the arts and sciences, and its open portals lead into the broad avenues and pleasant pathways of a purer and grander epoch, whose influences are already stirring our minds and hearts.

At its close, Col. C. D. Robinson spoke at some length, offering a resolution of thanks to Mrs. Thorp for her kindness in meeting us, and the pleasure she had given those who had listened to her eloquent and elegant address, which was enthusiasticly adopted. An informal and general conversation about the details of the work done and proposed followed, and the meeting closed at a late hour by singing, amid general expressions of pleasure at meeting, and sorrow at taking leave of the ladies from Madison and Beloit who had done so much to start and give an impetus to the centennial movement here; the members of the club separated to meet again when the exigencies of the work shall require.

THE CENTENNIAL AT APPLETON.

The ladies of Appleton assembled at the Methodist Church, Wednesday afternoon, January 19, for the purpose of determining what part they should take in the preparation of the state for the coming Centennial at Philadelphia. They were favored with the presence of Miss Martha Peet, of Beloit,

vice state chairman, who was introduced by Mrs. Dr. Steele. Miss Peet briefly stated the object of the meeting and called upon Mrs. Steele to lead in prayer,—after which she gave an interesting account of the origin and progress of the "woman's work" in Wisconsin, and what is being done by means of Centennial Clubs in various localities. All were greatly interested in her remarks, and measures were taken at once toward the organization of a club in our city.

The ladies then adjourned to meet again in the evening, in the parlors of Dr. Steele, where they received the official recognition of Mrs. J. G. Thorp, of Madison. The evening was most delightfully spent in conversation, and in listening to a resume of the work. Mrs. Thorp, who has been the inspiration of the work from the beginning, and was the originator of the plan — deserving the greatest praise, — read a very interesting paper setting forth her views of the importance and significance of the movement to every woman in the state.

Miss Peet also gave much valuable information in regard to the work accomplished in Beloit, Racine, Green Bay and other places.

Hon. A. L. Smith, who was present, made some remarks, indorsing most heartily the action of the women, and pledging himself to do all in his power to aid them.

Judge Boyd, being called on, said that though his gallantry would, of course, lead him to indorse the ladies and their work, yet he was placed in somewhat of a dilemma, as it painfully reminded him of the thrashing his ancestors received one hundred years ago! (He being of English descent.)

Dr. Steele said some earnest words heartily indorsing and encouraging this work.

All departed feeling that they had not only spent a delightful

social occasion, but had received fresh thoughts and inspirations for work, and gratitude for the glorious results that had been wrought out by the grand actions and heroic lives of those who have lived during the hundred years of our national existence.

The names of two honored and honorable women, whose praise is in all the land, were selected as Appleton's contribution to the "memorial shrine," first and foremost in every good work and word, the beloved Mrs. Dr. G. M. Steele and the honored mother of the lamented Justice Dixon, Madame Dixon.

Mrs. M. F. Page,
Ch'n Cen. Ex. Com.

Appleton has had an efficient organization, and contributed handsomely to the centennial fund.

WOMEN'S CENTENNIAL CLUB OF OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN.

[Official Report.]

In answer to a call published in the Oshkosh Daily Northwestern for January 20, 1876, a large number of ladies assembled Monday afternoon, January 24, to meet Miss Martha Peet, of Beloit, vice state chairman.

Miss Peet was introduced by the local chairman, Mrs. James Lankton, and proceeded to give an account of the organization, and a synopsis of the work undertaken by Centennial Clubs in other cities of the state. In quick and generous response her hearers manifested their appreciation of the beauty and propriety of Wisconsin, one of the great sisterhood of states, combining through the systematized efforts of local clubs, to give expression to their interest in the one hundredth anniversary of the history of the Republic.

The enthusiasm culminated in the organization of a Woman's Centennial Club. After accepting an invitation to unite in a reception of Mrs. J. G. Thorp, chairman of the state committee, Wednesday evening, at the residence of Mrs. Judge G. W. Washburn, the club adjourned.

Wednesday evening, January 26, the hospitable doors of the Washburn mansion were thrown open to a large and brilliant company, it being the occasion of a reception to Mrs. J. G. Thorp, of Madison, by the Oshkosh Centennial Club.

The spacious parlors were handsomely decorated with the national colors, tastefully combined with evergreen. Music lent its charm to the evening, the banner-hung walls reverberating again and again the strains of patriotic song, varied with the no less patriotic utterances of those who addressed the assembly.

Mrs. Thorp was formally introduced by Miss Peet, and gave official recognition to the club, by welcoming its members, through the executive committee, as coworkers in the centennial field. One hundred dollars was paid into the general fund of the Women's State Centennial Executive Committee, leaving a fair remainder in the treasury, thus denoting a large membership.

Mrs. Thorp then enchained the attention of her delighted auditors by the following able and appropriate address, which she had prepared expressly for the occasion:

Ladies and Gentlemen: As your invitation was kindly extended to me in my official capacity, I thank you for the honor you confer upon me, my associates, and the cause we represent. In this sense I may be supposed to understand definitely, the relation we bear to the national movement, in which we have, almost unconsciously, become active participants. You may expect me to point out the way, judging that I have given time and thought to the subject which you, in the multiplicity of your daily cares, have not had the leisure to bestow upon it. I commenced this work, as you will now probably do, influenced by sentiments of affection and loyalty to my country. The voice that summoned us has from the first

been vague, so far as method and definite plans of operation are concerned. In another and higher sense it is, I conceive, full of meaning to you and to me, as women of the nineteenth century. In this view of the subject, I gladly respond to your invitation. My own heart is stirred, and my mind awake to what I regard the magnitude of issues involved. I do not speak to you to dwell upon the value and meaning of historical reminiscences chiefly—hallowed as they are by ancestral associations, to many of us—but rather to speak of soul stirrings and aspirations which we all feel, in a greater or less degree, to be the spirit of the present, and which none of us can fully define. God, who inspired our forefathers to forsake home and country, to exchange convenience and luxury for privation and suffering, who sustained them amid the rigors of climate, in their contests with the mother country, and with each other, had an infinite plan, which we as a nation are fullfilling. Religious freedom was their watchword; for this they suffered and died. But the principles they brought with them still live, and have seeded the centuries that have intervened. Golden harvests of material prosperity wave in the broad sunlight of our advancing civilization. Vineyards of surpassing luxuriance and beauty gladden its hillsides. The fatness of the olive, and the glory of the palm tree, may be used to symbolize the wealth and victory, which make us a recognized power among the nations of the world, who are to join with us in our offerings of thanksgiving and praise. We are no longer impelled by the stern law of necessity; we find ourselves, instead, cradled in ease, and soothed by the sweet minstrelsy of peace. But underlying these, is heard a still small voice, emphasizing, upon the eve of our approaching anniversary, the value of our rich inheritance by reminding us of the fearful price which has from time to time been paid for it. When God led his chosen people out of the wilderness into the promised land, their deliverences and memorial days were marked by offerings of their choicest and best. We have at length awakened to the consciousness that in proportion as we estimate our homes and liberties, shall we express in some suitable form, our love and gratitude, as a thank offering to the God of nations, by whom, and for whom, they have been bestowed and thus far maintained. Our material wealth, brilliant with the polish which the labor of the centuries has bestowed, must still be grouped in designs and woven into forms of artistic beauty to represent the grandest conceptions and aspirations of the age. The genius of this sphere of labor is love. The strength that has wrought, and the intelligence that has reared the monuments of our national greatness, must now be permeated by this inner life and light in the consecration of all our treasures to their highest and holiest uses.

The grand Moloch of unsanctified ambition which obscures and blights all that

is tender and lovely does not represent the true type of American civilization, which was bought by blood and treasure, through faith in God. As we have recognized this truth, in times of deepest and darkest experience have our deliverances been the most signal. "When there was no eye to pity and no arm to save," and we in our madness, were tearing down and desecrating the holy temple of our united brotherhood, God sent us one, who through faith in Him, was annointed to save. We were then taught, as never before, that our strength was not in our statesmen or our cabinets, but in the arm of the Lord. Our jubilee notes, in sweeter and grander rhythm, will swell the chorus, in the same sacred song. Those who conceived and are carrying forward the project of a Centennial and International Exhibition, saw in the early days of its inception that the animating principle of love was lacking. They saw that a refined and cultured enthusiasm, begotten by the cordial coöperation of mind and heart, reason and affection, must be aroused, and its influences brought to bear upon the dormant and materialistic minds of the great body of the people, who are reached only in masses and emergencies. This necessity, opened the door and paved the way for woman, whose sensitive and intense nature responds more readily to spiritual than literal incentives. Hers is the prescience that discerns "the cloud no bigger than a man's hand," at the very circumference of the horizon. She feels and acts from impulse, before her logic has wrought out, link by link, the chain of argument that joins cause and effect. This is the magic of her influence and power which every enlightened mind comprehends, and by means of which, in the sanctity of true relations, the machinery of human life works smoothly and effectively. In the early days of our Republic, when physical and material combinations were necessarily primary, the position of woman was comparatively, a negative one. While her elements were as thoroughly incorporated as they ever can be, it has been mostly in the way of absorption in the domestic, social and religious spheres. Hers has been the leaven that has silently wrought and lifted our generation into the range of its present possibilities. As the light of Christianity and the laws of progress are better understood, the saving influences of true womanhood are more fully appreciated. "The signs of the times" indicate that the period has arrived when this law of absorption must give place to the higher law of spiritual responsibility, individually and unitedly, when women must represent their own peculiar powers in all the relations of life, in such ways as God shall open up to them. This does not, by any means, imply separation of interests, but, on the contrary, a more harmonious arrangement of the forces He has ordained shall act together, in their true order, within the scope of His divine purpose.

Many phases of life, for which women are especially responsible, remain as yet, comparatively undeveloped and the world looks and waits, "As step by step we're mounting up the rounds of nobler fame." The present movement among the women of the nation has in this view a significance, based as it is upon "union of sentiment and coöperative effort," which I repeat as the watchword of *our order*. Its moral influence is its real animus, rather than the limited *results* we expect to accomplish in a *literal* sense. But while we are elaborating true sentiments, it is fitting that we clothe them in garments of loveliness. Let us represent grand ideas, with womanly grace and elegance, indicating that this is to be the tone and character of all our feminine publicities. We shall not hesitate and shrink as now, when we have learned these lessons more perfectly, and tried our powers in this direction more fully. Women do not as a rule represent money, or material power in any line, therefore, there is need of greater effort, to carry forward the plans which we contemplate to successful issues. This lesson, in the ascending scale of womanhood, will go far in testing our ability to participate actively in "every good word and work." We delight in family reunions and have multiplied wedding days from the wooden to the diamond period of connubial bliss. To these we invite our dearest friends, and attach special value to the offerings in which most of their love has been woven; we cherish them evermore as graceful mementoes of the years and scenes when our hearts were emitting from their unsealed fountains sparkling jets of youthful joy and confidence. In our great family reunion, states and nations are honored guests, bearing with them tokens of allegiance and respect for the fair matron, whom the ages shall crown with perrennial youth. Here fountains are touched whose crystal depths reflect a brilliant galaxy of her honored heroes, and we have reason to anticipate that the holy influences of love and loyalty, which are being newly kindled will purify the sources of our national corruption, and reveal higher truths in political economy. It is no small thing to bear ever so humble a part in this memorial anniversary, and to have our names inscribed among those who love their country. This is the view in which I ask you to receive and indorse the centennial enterprise; so far as the women of Wisconsin understand and have undertaken to share in it. We do not affilliate with any other movement. We *criticise none* and accept none, but are willing that our aims "be known and read of all." We unite with the women of the world to aid ourselves and each other, as the surest way to elevate and bless humanity.

We have, as a nation, reached a point in our progress, where the excess of conveniences and luxuries we enjoy must be wrested from the grasp of vulgarity and meaningless display, and made to subserve true culture. Loving and appre-

ciative tributes to modest worth and patient endurance are aids and incentives to higher attainments. The vain glory, whose expressions are better suited to the license of dissipation than to the sanctuary of the well ordered home; whose graces are those of conventional flirtation and finical pretension, whose wisdom is summed up in the phraseology of lisping platitudes, will be quietly ignored, in the more healthful sentiment which will be strengthened by our international reunion. *Its* decorations and suggestions must have the merit of utility or beauty to recommend them. We can only understand and define our position and progress, as step by step, we gradually but surely enter in to the penetralia of the Divine purpose, feeling and partaking of the spirit which the opening century is already diffusing. Our fathers had the foreshadowing of this day, but their children received a baptism of blood before the first bulwarks of political liberty were partially set. The years of another century were almost told, when we were summoned to the great tribunal of adjustment, and paid in priceless treasure for their failure to comprehend the full meaning of their errand and mission to this new world. Since that time we are beginning to understand what *God means* by liberty. The power to see and comprehend the issues of to-day involves the obligation to act. It also implies the power to influence and control, as in the early days of our republic, when men and women joined hands and hearts in the good work. While we love to watch and interpret in the secret places of communion with our own souls, the ways in which God is leading us, we should not at the same time be passive or indifferent spectators in the fields of active labor which are for the first time opening to us. We must originate and maintain our own methods for ourselves, working in harmony with men for the best interests of the family, society, church and state, equally responsible for our share and our power of accomplishment in each and all. We believe the present opportunity to be one which it is well for us to accept as an earnest that the coming centennial cycle will reveal more abundant treasures and grander facilities suited to the refined and delicate powers of woman. As Aurora, preceding the golden chariot of the morning, let us hope that she shall henceforth go forward, attended by the sweet graces of Christianity, scattering through all its circling years, the freshness and fragrance of her love, and crowning it at last with achievements which shall illustrate the glory and beauty of her emancipated powers.

The congratulations which greeted the eloquent lady, on closing, were interrupted only to listen to addresses from some of the gentlemen present, who, although not allowed to join in the work of the club, are cordially invited to participate in its social

pleasures. H. B. Jackson, Esq., spoke at some length in his usual happy style, expressing his interest in the object for which the club had been organized, and wishing it God-speed in its undertaking. Judge Washburn followed, in some practical and encouraging remarks, which were received with marked approbation. After the spirited rendering of some patriotic songs by Mrs. Lankton, Mrs. Gordon and Mrs. Hatch, the club was favored with a short address by Miss Anna W. Moody, preceptress in the Oshkosh State Normal School. She spoke understandingly and eloquently of woman's work, not only in this centennial year, but in all the years of all the centuries; of her capabilities, and of the wider field of occupation and usefulness opening slowly but surely before her willing feet. At the close, Mrs. Thorp greeted the speaker with a congratulatory clasp of the hand and a few earnest words of encouragement. The attention of the club was then given to Miss Peet, who described at length the commemorative work of art and the memorial shrine which are to be prominent features of the exhibit of the Women of Wisconsin in the international exposition at Philadelphia. After some time spent in pleasant social intercouse, the whole company joined enthusiastically in singing, to the beautiful and time-honored air of "Auld Lang Syne," an original centennial hymn. Thus concluded the festivities of an evening which will ever retain a shining place among the associations of this centennial year.

Mrs. John Hicks,
Secretary of Executive Committee.

The Oshkosh Centennial Club, beside the usual quota of $100 to the central fund, voted to order an expensive picture for the art easel, from a home artist of state reputation. They also

selected the name of Mrs. L. E. Edgerton for inscription, upon the memorial shrine, among the names of other women of Wisconsin preëminent for "good works." After many interesting gatherings, they conclude the account of their work with the following admirable suggestion: It has been proposed to give, during the remainder of this centennial year, a series of entertainments partaking of a musical and literary as well as social character, in which historical reminiscences and the exhibition of century-old relics will be marked features. Cherishing the historic associations which cluster around the beginning of the century just completed, feeling a loyal and loving pride in the progress and prosperity which have marked each decade of our national existence — a progress and prosperity which have excited the wonder and the admiration of the peoples of the old world — and gratefully recognizing the mercy of the God of Nations, through which we have been brought, a happy and united people, to the dawn of this glad centennial year, the club stands ready to engage, as opportunity offers, in any good and patriotic work which will evince the attachment of its members to their beloved country in this its year of jubilee.

Mrs. G. W. Washburn,
Secretary of "Ladies Centennial Club."

LEGISLATIVE PARTY.

February 17th witnessed one of the pleasantest parties ever given in the state capitol. It was gotten up under the special management of the ladies, wives of the members of the legislature, assisted by the ladies of Madison, and was a "Leap Year Legislative Centennial Party." The following persons constituted the

Committee of Arrangements:

Mrs. Gov. Ludington, Milwaukee.
Mrs. Lt. Gov. Parker, Pleasant Valley.
Mrs. David Atwood, Madison.
Mrs. Prof. Parkinson, Madison.
Mrs. Senator Farr, Kenosha.
Mrs. Senator Hudd, Green Bay.
Mrs. Senator Treat, Monroe.
Mrs. Senator Welch, Baraboo.
Mrs. Senator Flint, Menomonee.
Mrs. Speaker Fifield, Ashland.
Mrs. A. S. Sloan, Beaver Dam.
Mrs. Edward Searing, Milton.
Mrs. R. M. Strong, Baraboo.
Mrs. L. T. Pullen, Evansville.
Mrs. A. J. Turner, Portage.

The leading objects of the party were to add to the state fund for the procurement of the "Commemorative Work of Art," which the ladies are having prepared as the representative offering of the women of Wisconsin at the centennial exhibition, and to have a splendid social reünion of the ladies and gentlemen of the state. The objects were patriotic and worthy ones, and most nobly did the ladies having the management in charge execute their plans. The commercial metropolis, the capital and various cities and towns of the state were represented, by their intelligent and graceful ladies, and their able and gallant gentlemen. A platform was laid over the clerk's desk for the music, and the floor spread with canvass for dancing. The ground work for the decoration committee of Madison ladies having thus been prepared, they energetically prosecuted their labors, till the room bloomed with beauty and brightened with patriotic emblems under their skillful hands. The desks of the speaker and clerk were covered with the American flag, the gas fixtures festooned with evergreens. On the front of the gallery above were ranged beautiful flowering plants, and in the center, richly wreathed with evergreens and flowers, was a large portrait of George Washington. Directly opposite, on the gallery at the west end of the assembly chamber, was draped with national colors the word "Centennial," in large red letters, with "1776" and

"1876" at either end just above, and in the center the U. S. and state flags, with a handsome "trophy," consisting of stacked arms hung with military accoutrements, with a drum at the base on one side, and a stuffed American eagle at the other.

The following named persons acted as committee of reception: Messrs. H. D. Barron, W. W. Reed, Thomas Wall, P. Q. Boyden, Ed. Keogh, J. W. Hoyt and Mayor Pinney, who presented the guests on their arrival to the lady committee of arrangements, who received them with grace and dignity.

Bach's superb band from Milwaukee struck up inspiring strains of music soon after 8 o'clock, at first from the platform over the clerk's desk, and afterwards from the floor in front.

SHORT SPEECHES.

At about 8:30 P. M., Senator T. R. Hudd and Hon. David Atwood, who had been requested jointly to preside, with Gov. Ludington, and George W. Peck, Esq., of the La Crosse *Sun*, took seats in the speaker's desk. Mr. Atwood called the audience to order, and remarked that we had assembled in one of the many preliminary gatherings that were now taking place throughout the country, in the interest of the grand centennial exhibition. This meeting was in aid of the women's movement, and it mingled the social with the business element in a pleasant manner. The figures 1776 and 1876 indicated that our nation has existed one hundred years. When we reflect for a moment on what we were at the beginning and what we are at the end of the first century, it is certain that the coming exhibition will be one of vast magnitude, interest and profit to the world. He now had the pleasure of introducing His Excellency, Gov. Ludington, who would propose a sentiment appropriate to this pleasant occasion.

Gov. Ludington, who was greeted with applause, rose and said:

"*Ladies and Gentlemen:* I can assure you that it is very difficult to find a proper sentiment for this occasion, but, as I entered the hall this evening, I saw the figures 1776, which remind us of the first year of American Independence, and 1876, which remind us that this is the centennial year. I therefore propose as a sentiment:

"1776—The time that tried men's souls. 1876—The time that tries men's and women's *soles*—keeping step to the music of the Union."

The president then said he had the pleasure of introducing George W. Peck, of La Crosse, the wit of Wisconsin, who would respond to this sentiment. Mr. Peck spoke as follows:

"One hundred years ago, to-day, there lived a man who could not tell a lie. That man is before you at this moment (hesitating, and then pointing to the picture of Washington). Yet, how times have changed in one hundred years. Then we had a continental congress; now we have a congress that don't amount to a continental. The times that tried men's souls. Who does not remember Washington, with his little army, barefooted, hungry and suffering, in mid-winter, crossing Lake Monona on an ice-boat, rather than build a pontoon bridge, and submit to the exactions of the Potter law; how he entered *Trenton*, Dodge county, his path strewn with flowers, is familiar to all. How it makes the blood tingle in the veins to think that we are on sacred ground. 'T was on this very spot that Captain John Smith rescued Pocahontas from the Regency, where she was going to be bound out to do housework, and bore her in triumph to Oshkosh, where she settled down and became the master of a state grange, raised a large family that is now scattered over the country holding positions in front of tobacco stores. How pleasant it is to step into the Historical Society and gaze upon the identical hatchet with which Washington, a hundred years ago, did his logging on Chippewa river, and never said—'dam it.' Do we forget the women of that early day? Not at all. The picture of Martha Washington carrying to Yorktown George's dinner in a little tin pail, when he didn't have time to go home, is familiar to all. We do not forget their hardships. When the wild Indians threw young hyson overboard in Boston harbor, so they could not pay back a drawing of tea they had borrowed, they buckled on their life-preservers and swam for it. One hundred years ago, this eagle (referring to Old

Abe) was a humming bird. Now he has grown bald in the service of his country, and is an ornament to society. But, speaking of times that tried men's souls, I am reminded that there is a little cotillion on the carpet even now, that must be attended to. In the short ten minutes alloted for this impromptu response to the sentiment, it has been impossible to allude to all that has occurred in the last hundred years. Trusting to the intelligence of the assembled beauty and chivalry to make good any omissions, or to correct misstatements if any have been made, let us hope that those present may have a grand reünion at the real Centennial at Philadelphia the coming summer. Let all respond to the sentiment,

"'Oh with the dance, let joy be unconfined.'"

This, thrown off in Peck's inimitable manner, was received with repeated hearty laughter, and with applause at the close.

PATRIOTIC SONGS.

Mr. Atwood then remarked that it gave him pleasure to introduce to the audience Mrs. H. M. Page, of this city, who would favor it with a song. Mrs. Page was then escorted to a platform on the Speaker's desk by Dr. J. W. Hoyt, appearing in costume as the "Daughter of the Regiment," a short dress of red, with white bands and cuffs, with a red cap banded with gilt, the French tri-color — blue, white and red — worn as a mantle on her shoulders, and equipped with a canteen and drum, and sang, in French, two verses of the Marseillaise Hymn, in a clear and spirited manner, beating a tattoo occasionally on her drum, whereat "Old Abe" flapped his wings and gave his approval. She was very warmly applauded and encored, to which she responded by singing three verses of the "Star Spangled Banner." The accompaniment, by Bach's band, was most admirably played, so as to greatly aid, not overpower the singer. A French-born Brown county member of the assembly expressed himself as having his soul stirred within him by the Marseillaise

Hymn, so identified with French patriotism, which he had not heard since he left his native soil, years ago.

Mrs. Page executed her part of the programme in a manner that gave complete satisfaction to all present, and she was highly complimented by many of the distinguished party.

On conclusion of the singing, the president remarked that he congratulated the lady managers of this party upon their complete success, socially and pecuniarily. There was yet a long programme of a most interesting character to be executed, and, from the appearance of those present, they would doubtless perform it well, and at the close of the entertainment he was quite sure that all present would feel proud to congratulate themselves that they had participated in this Legislative Centennial party under the management of the ladies. Dancing was now in order.

THE CENTENNIAL AT GENEVA LAKE.

[From the Geneva Herald.]

"The ladies of Geneva have been waiting for the time to come in which they could respond most effectively to the call for Centennial work and representation. That time seems to have arrived, and Thursday afternoon, February 17th, at 2 o'clock P. M., a large and enthusiastic gathering occurred at the Seminary Parlors. Miss Martha Peet, of Beloit, was present and addressed the meeting, explaining to the ladies what had already been done in the state and what is proposed to be done, and also the necessity for a club organization, in order to ensure state recognition, and representation at the Centennial. The interest in the state is widening, and has never been so great as at present. The ladies in the larger towns have formed successful clubs and have already reaped great benefits therefrom. Geneva is one of the oldest towns in the state, and does not propose to be outdone by other places, and the enthusiastic results of the first effort are a guaranty for future success. The following is the plan of organization for Centennial

Clubs: A president is selected; 37 vice presidents are chosen to represent the 37 states; 13 ladies, chosen from the oldest settlers, to represent the original states, and 11 young ladies, the territories.

Responding to the remarks of Miss PEET, the ladies formed an organization. Over thirty immediately joined the club by the payment of one dollar; we hope to increase our present number to one hundred. The proceeds of the club are to be appropriated towards the Memorial Shrine. The ladies unanimously decided to make Feburary 22, 1876, a memorable day in Geneva. There will be a grand MARTHA WASHINGTON Tea-party given on that evening at WALKER's Hall under the auspices of the Club."

On that anniversary day, flags were flying from dwelling houses, stores and hotels, and even the steamers on the lake shore, held to their moorings by anchors of ice. At noon all the bells of the village rung in concert, and the little boys, catching the enthusiasm, paraded the streets carrying at the head of their procession the emblematical hatchet. Within doors, housewives were busy in preparing for the entertainment of the evening. WALKER's Hall, the place of assembling, was crowded at an early hour. A goodly number of the people were dressed in representative costumes of "ye ancient time," and among the other attractions were an "Old Folks Choir," an old fashioned supper, the table being spread with linen that had seen service in colonial days, and was adorned with antiquated china and pewter ware that had an equally ancient origin; an old style kitchen with its antique appointments, besides more modern attractions. At nine o'clock the company were called to order and Mrs. THORP's Centennial hymn for that date was sung. Prayer was offered by the Rev. C. A. WILLIAMS. A sketch of the life of Gen. WASHINGTON was read by Rev. ROBERT WOLSLEY, and an original poem prepared for the occasion, recited by its author, Hon. JAMES SIMMONS. The assembly then united in singing "America." The local paper in alluding to the occasion, says it

was the largest and most successful gathering ever held in Geneva.

The next public meeting of the club was held at the house of Mrs. S. P. Farrington, March 11th, Mrs. Judge C. M. Baker presiding. An original address was read by the Secretary, Mrs. Rev. E. G. Miner, also Mrs. Thorp's address to the ladies of Wisconsin.

Letters were presented that had been received from the officers of the state committee, from which we learned that the pictures for the doors of the "Memorial Shrine," were to be painted by Miss Harriet E. Warner. The painting of minute landscape pictures, of such a shape as to be placed in a setting of ebony and silver must require peculiar artistic taste and skill. Mrs. Judge Wyman Spooner's name was offered as suitable to be enrolled with the representative names of the honorable pioneer women of Walworth county.

In summing up our work, as our records are called for, we find that we can report $100 raised for the state fund. The door panels of the beautiful memorial shrine, painted by a lady artist of our club, four pictures, sent to the artists portfolio, from pupils of Lake Geneva Seminary, to be exhibited upon the art easel from Wisconsin. A history of our young ladies seminary has also been furnished by request to be included with the sketches of the private educational institutions of the state. Thus we feel, that though late in manifesting our interest, we have at last a creditable Centennial record.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN MILWAUKEE.

There was a large gathering at Quenten's Park on the evening of the 22d of July, to enjoy the concert given under the auspices of the Women's Centennial Association. The Park was brilliantly illuminated, and presented a most attractive scene. Bach's orchestra and the choruses of the musical society performed a number of excellent selections, vocal and instrumental. Between the parts of the musical programme, Hon. Matt H. Carpenter, being introduced by Hon. P. V. Deuster, advanced to the front, and commenced the speech of the evening, from which we make a few extracts:

"It is the impulse of our nature, from boyhood up, to commemorate all important events in life; and in illustration of this he spoke in a happy vein of the love that is in us of celebrating our birthdays with candles and cakes and our weddings with tin, crystal and silver, those who live long enough, with gold and diamonds. The same disposition accompanies us through life, and extends to the commemoration of leading events in history. Of this we have an instance supplied by the Jewish nation, whose customs, feasts and fasts, handed down pure and unchanged from the remotest generations have done more than any other human agency to preserve the unity of the race as we see it to-day. The crying want of America is nationality. Most of us live for ourselves more than we do for our country; we are too devoted to selfish ends, to our wives and our children, to our business, to money making. This is a selfish age, and we need a change. It is true reform we need to stand by the springs of our origin as a nation, to recall what our fathers did, to cherish the seed they sowed, and to preserve and nourish the institutions they have so firmly and wisely planted. In 1620, a few immigrants landed on a snow covered rock in New England. In 1875, we see descended from them this great union of states, the growth and fruit of that little colony. Thirteen colonies in 1776 declared their independence of foreign control, in order to enjoy civil and political liberty, taking up the sword against the most powerful nation then existing, whose drum beat circled the civilized world. It was against such a

power that our fathers fought. On the 4th of July, 1776, after more than a month spent in deliberation, congress declared that the thirteen colonies ought to be and were free states. That was the birthday of American liberty, which is to be celebrated next year. These states started with 4,000,000 of people, stretching along the Atlantic coast, clinging to the borders of the ocean, as though timid of losing the means of escape from unknown misfortunes to come, and we have seen them flowing in a steady stream into the west as far as the Mississippi, across the Mississippi, and at last to the Pacific coast, and then stealing back gently to the Atlantic again. He regarded the United States as having a mission more important than has ever been confided to any people to accomplish, a mission that includes the elevation of our own race to the highest pitch of human happiness and civilization, and sending floods of light into the deepest fastnesses and dungeons of the old world. With such destinies as these before us, is it not right that we should desire to preserve feelings of unity and fraternity? Indeed the necessity for it is greater than in older countries, such as in Great Britain, in France and Germany, where the people are to a great extent one in origin, language and customs, and a feeling of unity and patriotism is not only forever upon them by the circumstances by which they are surrounded, but not unfrequently becomes a violent prejudice. This he contrasted in a very forcible manner with the condition of citizenship in the United States, showing that here we have the best and worst of nationality, French, German, English, Scotch, Irish, Scandinavian and all others, even Asiatics and that the task before us is to foster a feeling of unity among all these diverse elements and to weld them into a common brotherhood as Americans, not only in name, but in hopes, aspiration and material works. Nearly every nationality was represented there that evening. Very many of them had come from the land of their birth, bringing with them the recollections and attachments of childhood, to lay them upon the altar of American freedom and nationality. Then he considered the diversity of climate of this highly favored land, and the preponderance of emigrants of certain nationalities in different sections, and went on to say that it is our manifest destiny to mould all these into one common nationality, so that, as time rolls on, the distinctions of race shall close, the word Yankee, Irish, German and so forth be forgotten in our vocabulary, and the whole people from the Atlantic to the Pacific shall come to regard themselves as Americans and Americans only. This brought him to the great occasion we are about to celebrate, namely, the hundreth birthday anniversary of the states which he characterized as the most notable event the human race has ever been called upon to witness He said it is eminently fitting that the celebration shall take visible shape in Philadelphia, which may of all places be most fitly

chosen for the purpose, within the shadow of Liberty Hall and the sound of that old bell which rang out

"The first glad tidings of liberty."

"This centennial is not a mere question of gunpowder and drinking whisky, but there are great ends of economy, patriotism and future prosperity tied up with its proper celebration, and it behooves the state of Wisconsin not to be forgetful of her duty in the premises. Then he addressed himself to the financial aspect of the question, showing how necessary it is for us to be well represented even from an economic standpoint, leaving out altogether considerations of pride and patriotism: particularly he dwelt upon the impetus likely to be given to immigration of the best class, by the centennial exhibition and the desirability on that ground of our taking the place to which we are justly entitled. * * He then spoke encouragingly of the labors of the ladies of Milwaukee and paid them a compliment for the work they had so creditably begun by the fete in which they were participating, and prayed that their efforts would be crowned with the success they merited. He hoped that the few words he had uttered would have some little effect in spurring on the cause, and expressed the belief that his auditors would not, when the proper time came, shrink from doing their duty as citizens of Milwaukee and the state of Wisconsin."

The honorable gentleman was rewarded for his effort with loud and repeated applause.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

[From the Racine Journal, Feb., 1876.]

The Centennial celebration at Racine, which occurred upon the 22d of February, 1876, was an occasion of marked interest, and one which will not soon be forgotten by those who had the pleasure of participating in its varied and high-toned exercises.

Nature was graciously pleased to grant us one of the most pleasant days for the celebration, and the ladies vied with each other in the culinary art, and spread their tables with such

viands as were calculated to tempt an epicure, besides adding their pleasant smiles and welcome greeting. The New England kitchen was an entertaining feature. GEORGE and MARTHA WASHINGTON received their friends in the dining room, going back to the days of republican simplicity before a room was set apart for receptions, so that whilst the grave and dignified GEORGE and the stately MARTHA were shaking hands at one end of the room, at the other the invited guests were getting away with a vast amount of good old-fashioned New England fare. Mr. R. ADAMS represented GEORGE WASHINGTON, whilst the part of MARTHA was well sustained by Miss DOOLITTLE. HARRY STEVENS represented Brother JONATHAN.

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon the ladies held a meeting — Mrs. Senator DOOLITTLE in the chair — and were first addressed by Miss MARTHA PEET, of Beloit, giving in a clear and concise manner the objects the women of Wisconsin had in view in their present work. She also gave a short but well defined history of the enterprise from its first inception, at Philadelphia, until the present time.

Mrs. DOOLITTLE then presented Mrs. THORP with the scroll of membership of the Racine Centennial Club, to which Mrs. THORP briefly responded, and then addressed the ladies and gentlemen present as follows:

The character of the Hero whose birthday we commemorate is, I conceive, a more priceless boon to this generation, than the treasures of wealth we gather and exhibit as evidences of our material prosperity. As we contemplate the dignity and beauty of the man, who in harmony of physical, mental and moral development has no peer in the annals of American History, our highest aspirations are awakened and kindled, and we follow where he leads, to the infinite source of light and life. The grandeur and simplicity of true dignity, as portrayed in the character and bearing of GEORGE WASHINGTON, is a copy set by the Divine Master, which through the century remains unwritten. Our youth are

taught to emulate and imitate, but none have attained to the serene heights which where in his royal possession. The model still exists for the new century, as complete as in the former day. The vision stands revealed to our view, enveloped in the spiritual atmosphere of its own purity and loveliness. That unwavering firmness, which conquered and controlled, resting upon its own foundation, was as firmly rooted in his moral as his physical being, and is as well suited to the aspirations of womanhood as of manhood. In this view of the subject, we are to-day especially interested. Anniversaries are not only occasions of joyful reunion, but should be and naturally are, times for reflection — standpoints of advantage, from whence we review the past and glance toward the future. Joy and sorrow touch and vibrate upon the heart chords of humanity in rapid succession, harmonies and discords mingle and swell to a richer chorus the grand diapason of human life. The period of time now emphasized upon the pages of our historic calender, is one of marked interest. The auguries of great changes are wont to come in cheerful garb, bearing hope and promise to those who await them. New things mean *better* things, as a rule, our hopes taking counsel of our desires. To-day the pulses of our nation's life beat so heavily, while its nerve currents are so rapid and intense that we are warned of approaching danger.

"Eternal Vigilance is the price of Liberty." A pronunciamento which it requires neither sage nor seer to expound. It is well to pause ere we enter the door, already ajar, and know whither our footsteps are tending. This is a fitting time; these are golden opportunities. Like beacon lights, they will be scattered throughout the year, making it brilliant with the love light of loyalty. Men and women have each their place and their measure of responsibility in working out the intricate problems of the day — more, perhaps, in the prescience of interpretation, than in the wisdom of aggressive formulas. The faith that sustained and inspired our patriot hero, amid the conflict of war and carnage, will enable the leading spirits of this generation to stand amid a shock and a warfare none the less deadly because its weapons are spiritual rather than carnal. Let us each be fully persuaded in reference to our own position. The combatants in this warfare are not recognized by the regimentals of the "*Regular*" or the "*Continental.*" Distinctions are no longer broad and palpable to the sight, as in the olden time, but they are definite and pronounced in their influence for good or evil. As women, as mothers, we have sacred interests in the establishment and maintenance of true and safe standards for the family, for society and for the nation. Our all is laid upon the common altar, and we cannot be negative or indifferent in the proper selection and adjustment of the elements of our advancing civilization. Development does not consist in the acceptance and occupation of condi-

tions prepared for us, but rather in the effort and struggle incident to their creation. The laws of labor and compensation are unvarying in God's spiritual kingdom. "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." In the early days of our history, we were dealing with stern facts, setting the foundation stones of our new home. Men and women wrought as best they could with the material at hand. The faith and hope of woman were the incentive and inspiration of man in his rough toil. Her silent endurance and patient love surrounded him with home influences which blessed and beautified his life, and thus the theory of her mission has come to be the sentimental and poetic, while facts show a wide range of literal and practical duties for which she is mainly responsible. The plane upon which we now stand is not one of crude forces, where physical energies and material results stand in the foreground of enterprise. "He that runneth may read" a higher and nobler lesson. The indications of the period and the status of womanhood, both teach that the necessities of *each* demand aid from the other. The plastic material now in the storehouse of Time, is awaiting the refining processes which only woman's thought and touch can transform to its highest uses.

Women equally need more earnest and more rational spheres for the exercise and development of their best gifts. Can we doubt that He who has revealed Himself in every great emergency as our nation's guide, will open to the earnest, the waiting and the faithful a way which they know not? The work which the women of our state have undertaken, in connection with those of our nation, we recognize as one of the indices of the times, important in its bearing upon this subject. The union of feminine forces in the prosecution of a grand plan, is in its nature enlarging and ennobling. In this instance we are brought into close sympathy with the sentiments which animated the heroes and heroines of '76. We drink at the same fountain of divine inspiration, and embrace within the scope of our enterprise the emancipation of woman from every self-imposed and accepted tyranny. In this work we are learning primary lessons in the school of progress, opening new avenues, arranging new methods, and classifying energies hitherto silent and inoperative. Who can tell its full import? Let our annunciations be so clear and distinct that we shall hereafter find our names written with those who have blessed the world. In seeking out the best tangible forms to represent our gratitude and devotion to our country, we find ourselves in the creative realm of ideal beauty, striving to embody sentiments in shapes of grace and loveliness, and preceded by those whose companionship and association are most agreeable and improving. In this sort of labor, we realize day by day how thoroughly we are removed from the ranks of meaningless show and insipid frivolity. Instinctively

loving the beautiful, the refined and the true, women have yielded to the soft persuasion taught by theory as well as precedent, that in social ways, the ornamental and the useless, not to say the harmful, are legitimate alliances, making them the tools instead of the guardians of society. Our centennial arousing is not, I conceive, primarily for the purpose of preparing articles to exhibit, but to bring us in sympathy with each other, to teach us new modes of thought and effort in harmony with the growing necessities of our individual, social and national life. The organizing power has not hitherto been woman's prerogative, consequently as a rule, she lacks the method and definiteness which come from the exercise of this faculty — the basis, to a great extent, of all practical attainment. Results already reached prove her equal to its development in an eminent degree, commencing as she has in the present instance with illimited facilities, working out by the most elaborate and energy-expending processes, her financial status. Without the aid of precedents, in the face of prejudice, and often of reproach, she has reached the point of honorable recognition. This first step gained, she may hope that the future will be brilliant with conquests, and illuminated with the light of a new day, whose rosy hours shall be marked with the trophies of progress.

"Great emergencies make great heroes." This axiom involves a philosophy and wisdom which we as women may appropriate. A distinguished writer has said, that every great man has the best element of the womanly character in him, and every great woman has the best element of the manly character in her. The feminine attributes of the immortal hero, whom we to-day honor, are our lineal heritage. Let us henceforth come in closer union with them. As he conquered the tyrants of monarchical oppression, let us conquer despots of more formidable mien, even those who aim directly at the citadel of feminine strength and glory. The rule and reign of fashion as an arbitrary and destructive power, is being considered. The day of final release cannot be far distant, as with American women to ponder and to realize is to act. There are other strongholds of tyrranny and oppression, where fortresses will be weakened as the advancing light of truth shall portray them, in their danger and deformity. Let us not hesitate to embrace within the scope of our responsibility, every phase of reform that bears upon the life and destiny of woman. We shall find the theme prolific in interest and abundant in compensation. There are no barriers in our way that we cannot remove or overcome by "united and coöperative effort." our centennial watchword. There is no need of struggle or contention, of personal or generic discontents. But alas! there *is need* of a more vitalized and earnest comprehension on the part of *women*. A more open and heartfelt sympathy with the silent but intense workings of that Unseen Power who created all things, and who designed that the

abundant treasures of the kingdoms of the earth, to which, through patient toil and research we find the key shall be made subservient to the development of the highest type of spiritual manhood and womanhood. Women of 1876, I greet you as the elder sisters, who are tenderly and lovingly pointing out the way, which leads into "the green pastures and beside the still waters" of a more christianized era. The new impress that is being stamped upon woman will tell upon the generation to come, although you and I may not enter into the rich possessions of the future. Faithful and devoted in the very fiber and essence of her being, woman needs to be held to higher estimates of herself, and her capabilities instead of accepting the unchristianized dogmas of the ignorant and bigoted, who pronounce her desire for change and relief from the ever recurring detail of domestic cares, her longing for new and more compensating labor and for better educational advantages synonyms for negligence and depravity.

Let us discriminate wisely and intelligently between the anxious and nervously thrifty housewife, whose merit lies chiefly in tiresome detail and oft repeated statistics, bearing upon her wonderful method and the competent, faithful mother. The latter embraces all that is valuable in the former and supplements it with the crowning glory of the true woman. So exhaustless is the theme, so numberless the changes and variations that make up its harmony, that we can only sweep the chords, whose vibrations will make the music and the inspiration of the next century. Come to this banquet of love, which is being spread for the nourishment of your highest and holiest powers.

Strengthened and renewed, they will take hold upon virtues and motives, which shall be for the purification and exaltation of woman. This is no poetic flight of fancy; it is the lesson of to-day, and will find methods and utterances beyond the hope of the most sanguine. Let us prepare to tread the new pathways of the future, with dignity and womanly grace, guiding, rather than opposing, receiving and augmenting — instead of expending — our physical, mental and spiritual energies. The philosophy of this higher plane is rich with noble thought and brilliant with the scintillations of truth. As jewels of the purest water are in the decorations of womanly apparel, so are the radiations of the soul life the beauty and lustre of womanhood. "In the elder days of art," motherhood was its crowning sentiment. The Madonnas of Raphael are still the altar pieces before which devout and sentimental religionists bow with feelings of reverence and awe if not of worship. This sentiment has, like a thread of light, been woven into all the artistic thought of the ages, and is a true reflection of the inner life which God reveals to the inspirations of genius. From this revelation poets sing, artists mould and sketch the ideal woman — a being who inhabits the realm of

their creature power. The light of her eye is not deepened, nor the glow of her cheek quickened, by the life currents of wifehood and motherhood. Still the type, the divine copy, remains true and unchanged, and as its spiritual meaning is better comprehended, the rhythm of the real poem, the warmth of the living picture, and the perfection of the true model will be revealed in the midst of life.

"All are architects of Fate,
Working in these walls of Time,
Some, with noble deeds and great,
Some with ornaments of rhyme.

Nothing useless is, or low,
Each thing in its place is best,
And what seems but idle show
Strengthens and supports the rest.

For the structure that we raise
Time is with materials filled;
Our to-days and yesterdays
Are the blocks with which we build.

In the elder days of art,
Builders wrought with greatest care
Each minute and unseen part,
For the Gods see everywhere.

Let us do our work as well,
Both the unseen and the seen
Build the house where Gods may dwell,
Beautiful, entire and clean.

Else our lives are incomplete,
Standing in these walls of Time,
Broken stairways, where the feet
Stumble, as they seek to climb.

Build, to-day, then strong and sure,
With a firm and ample base,
And ascending and secure,
Shall, to-morrow, find its place.

Thus, alone, can we attain,
To those turrets, where the eye
Sees the world, as one vast plain,
And one boundless reach of sky."

At the request of Mrs. Durand, President Bascom, of the the State University, remarked as follows:

"I fail quite to understand why the ladies should seek indorsement for themselves or their cause at my hands. But when this indorsement is sought, nothing can be bestowed by me more cheerfully and heartily. The opening bud has a more pleasing lesson than the dropping petals. Our social life, I make no doubt, is passing into fresh flowering at this very point — the enlarged intelligence and activity of woman. While I rejoice in the centennial that is, I greet the centennial that is to be, and extend to it my right hand of help and good will."

Rev. Dr. Chapin, of Beloit College, said:

"I bid these ladies a hearty God-speed in this enterprise. They are certainly acting in a legitimate sphere when they join their influence and efforts to make the national exposition a worthy illustration and memorial of the wonderful development of this free republic under the guiding hand of God — our fathers' God and our God, through the first century of its life. The products of feminine taste and genius and skill are needed to make complete the visible manifestation of what our people have become and of what they are doing. The declaration of independence of 1776 embodies ideas of liberty and equality which have led on a steady emancipation of woman from wrongful subjection and thraldom to the despotism of the stronger sex, which originated in the selfish violence of a barbarous age, and has been perpetuated by the traditions of feudal times. Hence the gentleness and refinement of Christian womanhood have become a power in our country as nowhere else in the world, felt and honored and full of blessing. Now if this year 1876 shall, as intimated in the interesting paper to which we have just listened, be marked by a strong and effective declaration of independence on the part of women for themselves, from the tyranny of *Fashion*, then we may be sure that under the full and free unfolding and application of that power, yet higher blessings and a grander growth shall gladden and adorn our nation's life in the century to come."

In the evening Belle City Opera House was filled to overflowing. The stage had been admirably decorated with national emblems by the ladies in charge, and by their able gentlemen assistants. In the background stood in full view a magnificent specimen of our "Eagle Bird" — glorious emblem of liberty. On either side floated the stars and stripes, while in bold relief stood the Goddess of Liberty. The immense assemblage was called to order by Hon. James R. Doolittle, as president, stating the objects of the meeting and its importance; after which there was the opening by Broecker's band, which had volunteered its services for the occasion, at the conclusion of which the curtain again rose, revealing upon the stage "the great, the wise, the reverend heads" of Hon. J. R. Doolittle, Rev. Dr. DeKoven, of Racine College, Rev. Father Matthew, Dr. Chapin, President of Beloit College, Prest. Bascom, of the State University, Dr. P. R. Hoy, and Rev. Mr. Mead, of the M. E. Church.

Mr. Doolittle, in a feeling manner, said that the blessing of God should be invoked upon all good works, and called upon Rev. Mr. Mead, that the proceedings might be sanctified with prayer. Brief in religious pathos was the prayer of the reverend gentleman, but it contained all that was necessary, and will long be remembered by all who heard it.

Rev. Father Matthew was then introduced to respond to the sentiment of Washington — "First in War; first in Peace, and first in the hearts of his Countrymen." No man, it would seem, could combine more patriotic words in response to this sentiment, than did the reverend gentleman in his brief speech. It was a *multum in parvo.* His heart is full of American veneration for the great day, and the great and good man, the anniversary of whose birth we celebrated. He also considered that

the objects that were to be furthered by this observance of Washington's birthday were in perfect accord with the patriotic sentiments uttered here to-night, and the beautiful surroundings.

Then followed the "Ode to Washington, by Mrs. Thorp, of Madison; Prof. Heyer at the piano, sung by the entire audience, standing.

FOR FEBRUARY 22d, 1876.

Tune, "*Auld Lang Syne.*"

God saw on that auspicious morn
That gave our Hero birth,
A nation buffeted and torn,
And sent him crowned to earth.
Benign and gentle, full of grace,
Was his fair manhood's prime,
The lustre of his soul-lit face
Resisted toil and time.

As step by step, through war and peace,
He reached immortal fame,
And gave the signal for release,
In freedom's hallow'd name,
The birth day of a nation's sire,
Great century bells ring out!
Her Jubilee's magnetic fire
Is kindled in the shout.

From height to height glad signals blaze,
And joy sweeps o'er the land,
As swell our sweet Centennial lays,
From Liberty's full band.
We worship Thee O God, to-day,
For Washington the Great,
Who guided o'er her stormy way,
Our Grand old Ship of State.

Prest. Bascom, of the Wisconsin State University, being called upon, made the following speech:

"Science, society, art and religion unite to drive us out of ourselves, beyond ourselves, to enlarge our lives in the universe about us, and put us in grand possession of earth and heaven. The selfish soul hedges and fences in vain. It is born into the family, and, shortly, the family in a new form lays hold of it, and the husband, parent, leader, finds his own fortunes backed up in the fortunes of the mimic state that gathers about him. But the second enlargement of our life is far greater than this, its first enlargement; it is that of patriotism, that of the nation. No great nation has been born or nourished otherwise than by the patriotism of its citizens. Its power has been, not that of herding men together, but that of calling out manly, individual endowment. Patriotism is the life and power of nations, and no great nation, great in knowledge, in action, in government, has been built up otherwise than by the patriotism of its citizens. Ours is the festival of patriotism, and our patriotism sprang in those early days from its noblest roots. The patriotism of Greece was one of culture and of art, of a versatile, volatile, social life. The patriotism of Rome was one of conquest, one of law and government, one of construction and strength. Mere conquest makes no nation and nourishes no patriotism. Only as the conquest is the pushing forward of ideas, only as it carries with it new organizing forces, intellectual and social, is it the product of patriotism, and has it the strength of patriotism. It is the thought of *United* Germany that lifts the abhorrent, bloody veil from the Franco-Prussian war, and discloses it as an era in the world's progress. Our patriotism, the patriotism of our fathers, was one of truth, truth reposing on justice, announced in behalf of human liberty, and so of human progress; truth deeply tinctured by benevolence, by the divine enunciation of good-will to man. Our nation had then the true national, the only national birth, that of patriotism; it had it in its highest form, that of the largest, most just and most generous ideas. Hence the wonderful constructive power it has shown. It assimilates, compounds, compacts all nationalities, and builds itself up by them, not by virtue of power, nor by race, nor by language, but by an inheritance of ideas that everywhere quicken and cement human affections, call forth and consolidate, in social and civil commonwealth, our best citizens by their best purposes. We are a nation, Saxons, Germans, Norwegians, Celts, the American nation, by virtue of the highest warrant, a national compact, a national patriotism sealed in truth and directed toward progress. We shall do well to remember, in this our centennial year, that the truly integrating, constructive forces of our national life are liberty and justice — the liberty of man

and woman in the full exercise of every power, and justice towards each, in that this liberty is limited to, and restrained by, a like exercise on the part of every other man of his powers. We shall do well to remember that the only disintegrating forces in this our nation are oppression, restriction, injustice. In our centennial festival no strife of laws, no conflict of nationalities come in to mar our success, only a faint clamor of sections, and a fainter clamor of sects. The grand principles, the ideas of a social and civil nationality still remain regnant, still rule out and crowd out those secondary interests which have hitherto constructed nations, or have rent nations in pieces. Yet, the years of hardship are the years of sacrifice and so the years of patriotism. We are fast passing into that easy prosperity, that enlarged wealth, which engender selfishness and corruption, hush patriotism, and subject to fatal strain all social ties. In two directions smothered voices of strife indicate our time to be critical, and disclose the weakness of our organic principles. The first is the incipient struggle between capital and labor. These two are opposite sides of one productive, commercial power, and cannot begin to fall apart without dissolving fundamentally our social ties. The road upward must be kept open through every gradation of labor and every gradation of capital; so open that any citizen may safely travel it. Justice, just restraints and only just restraints, absolute legal equality, the steady repression on either hand of all depredation, good-will — these are the remedies to that insidious, deep-seated strife that divides the poor from the rich, and runs along every class-line, creating and accumulating hatred, till it becomes the thunderbolt of war. Wealth in our land needs once more, needs at once, laying aside every legal advantage, to settle down quietly, like a refreshing rain-cloud, on the parched, barren fields of poverty, to take them up in its nutritive processes and restore to them fertility and beauty. Every form of coöperation, every way in which capital submits itself freely to labor, should be our earnest, patriotic study this coming century, that the two ends in society, the poor and the rich, now parting in our industrial march, may be drawn together once more, and knit together afresh in social strength. A second direction in which I catch the sound of discord and division is education. A distrust, slight and partial, I believe, but real, is felt toward our public school system. Its friends hesitate to carry it forward to its legitimate conclusions; its enemies venture to attack it in all its branches. Our nationality, as a nationality of ideas, can be sustained and advanced only by general and enlarged knowledge; can only be so fed as itself to feed patriotism by general and enlarged knowledge. This general and this enlarged instruction calls for and includes equally the common school, the high school and the university. This is the logical outcome of our system, our fundamental truth, and we cannot hesitate in its development without endanger-

ing all, without first arresting growth and then slowly falling into decay. The lack of courage is the lack of strength. Conference and dalliance are the preliminaries of retreat. The intelligence of the people, large and pervasive, that they may rule, and rule safely, this is our national thought, and when we stagger in its unfolding, this our national life is giving ground, and dividing forces will assail us on every side.

"We start our second centennial with renewed occasion, on account of the greater territorial extension of our people, their wider divisions in religion, in social customs and intelligence, for this, our first truth, public and complete education; and I fear we also start it with some little hesitancy as to its application. Once more, I say our nationality is a nationality of ideas, and when the constructive idea trembles the standard is falling. I saw the other day, in a clear sky and a brisk wind, our loved national emblem, that has a thought for every stripe, a history for every star, floating freely from our State Capitol. It would, in a moment of relaxation or a veering wind, gather its folds close to the staff, and then suddenly send forth its rippling bars in full extension. Our national principles may flag a little, may fall into the lull of truism, but from time to time we must unfold them with a fresh breath of enthusiasm, and spread them athwart the light once more in living, glowing colors.

"Citizens of Racine, I am glad that you propose to date afresh the centennial year with a patriotic improvement. The beautifying of your city is such an improvement. A city belongs to all its inhabitants; it is that which they hold in common. I trust that broad encircling avenues, starting from the shore line and running thence far out and far around with a cheerful embrace of foliage, will return again to the shore line, gathering up and uniting your city with bands of life to the water of your lake, and putting you in closest fellowship with these your local conditions of beauty. Simple squares, dropped at random in a city are cheerless. The buildings seem forced back by a policeman, and like a crowd, to press only the more closely upon each other for the ground that they have reluctantly surrendered. Shaded avenues passing into and out of parks unite and weave together an entire city. The gala, civic procession can encompass it, spread itself out in open spaces like a lake in a river, or gather itself up easily and again flow on. The city is put everywhere in fellowship with circulating air, with light and relaxation. There is a time in the growth of a city, while it is cartilaginous and has not yet wholly turned into bone, into brick and stone, in which improvement should be inaugurated. This time is yours, this centennial year is yours, and among the patriotic forces that shall bind you to your country, you do well to include that love of the beautiful which quickens the pulse of every citizen

in a beautiful city. It is always dangerous to begin to build the monuments of the fathers and to garnish their sepulchers. We shall only protect ourselves from the malign influences of empty honors rendered to dead virtues, by imitating at the same instant and in the same act the new efforts demanded by living virtues. To beautify the lands our fathers left us, to enlarge and enrich its parks, to widen and adorn its highways, to make enviable its out-door common life; this is the honor we render the dead, for this makes visible and complete their work, carries it forward to its fruition of beauty and strength.

Nor ought we to fail in our centennial year to receive a fresh pulsation of patriotism, caught from our early history. We are already suffering from the unpatriotic effects of distance and strength. We are too great, too independent of each other, too remote from one another in our large land, not to give some occasion to indifference, jealousy and contempt. It will be but a thriftless parsimony of labor and money if we, as a state, fail to be so represented at our centennial and national festival, that without envy and detraction we can, through all the summer months, behold with pride and congratulation the industry and art of our sister states, knowing that we, too, are equal partakers in their future. That our national life is not missing its natural and just developments, we have most grateful proof in the position achieved by the women of the state, and in the enthusiasm and success with which they are assuming and meeting new responsibilities. This double-handed labor is the truly distinctive feature of the occasion and the age, and will in later years be felt to be so even more than now. A great want does not at the outset well know itself. It requires the perspective of many years to reveal its magnitude. We have a large inheritance, and it will require large virtues, now as hitherto, to use and hold it. These virtues and the social truths which are the only sure foundations of these national virtues, we need now to renew and enlarge. This is the mission of the evening, the duty of the year, and we would kindle our courage from courageous hearts, and enlarge our wisdom with those wise thoughts that command the future in prophetic oversight."

Then followed the medley chorus by the Centennial choir, which was executed in a masterly manner, and loudly applauded.

Senator Doolittle, introducing Dr. DeKoven, prefaced the introduction by stating that he understood that Mr. J. I. Case had tendered $1,250 for the Centennial improvements; $1,000 for the improvement of parks, and $250 for St. Lukes Hos-

pital. Dr DeKoven was then introduced, and spoke as follows:

"OUR COLLEGES."

"It is true of nations, as it is of individuals, that they have an outer and inner life. The former is that which is in the mouths of men, which is written down in newspapers, which is discussed in the halls of legislation, which is acted in the deeds which make a nation famous or infamous, which moves peacefully on in times of rest, and which is fought out on battle fields. The inner life of nations, on the other hand, escapes the observation of most people; it is unnoticed, except by the quiet thinkers, sometimes away from the noise of action, and often it is unknown until men can look back over a long period of time and understand because they *can* look back upon it. This inner life is the result of a variety of forces; the physical strength or weakness of the nation, its belief in God and the supernatural world, its exact regard to the unvarying laws of nature, of providence and of revelation, the laws of the one Law Giver who speaks in them all; and of the intellectual movements which urge the nation hither and thither, and which are to some degree the result of physical and moral forces combined.

"The history of the colleges of this country is as fair an exponent as can be found of the intellectual forces which have acted upon the American people. Of course I do not mean to say that there have not been mighty intellectual forces quite independent of all colleges; never was there a country in modern times, where this has been more frequently true, and yet I believe that the history of American Colleges, whether they have been a monument in behalf of higher religious education, the outcome of individual effort, or the earnest care of the state for the training of its children, will be found to be on the whole a record of the intellectual life of the United States of America in its weakness and in its strength. I will go further and say, that when the history of these colleges, whether they have failed or succeeded, comes to be written, no nobler story of self denial and earnestness, of patient waiting and faithful labor, can be found in the annals of our country. I believe, too, these educational efforts have required the same virtues exercised in another sphere, which fought the battles of the revolution and did the mighty deeds which, on anniversary after anniversary, we commemorate in this centennial year. Thus I connect the sentiments to which I have been commissioned to respond, with the glorious memories which make this day of this year what they are. There is perhaps another and a deeper connection, to which I hope I may allude. Thoughtful writers upon political subjects have thought they detected a great danger in the most democratic of all the prin-

ciples which have guided this nation — a danger which I myself believe to be a great one; I refer to universal suffrage. The legislators and the governors of the American people are elected by a numerical majority; there is no such thing anywhere as a representation of the minority. It is unlikely, almost impossible, indeed even with the widest diffusion of popular education, that the numerical majority shall elect to represent the deepest thought of the nation. Nor is this due to any fault in the masses of the people; it is simply because the masses of the people must, from the nature of the case, have less leisure and less opportunity for reflection than the minority. The unthinking and uninformed are not likely to elect the thoughtful, the careful discerners, the men who seeing all sides of a question cannot echo readily the popular outcries; in short, the very persons who can be statesmen, not politicians. Hence, a recent traveler of distinction in this country, in writing back to his native land his impresions of America, amid much to admire, stated that "he noticed that the most cultivated, thoughtful people of the nation were gradually becoming a disfranchised class; they took no great interest in political questions, they rarely voted, they stood one side, and that to the great loss of the country." I am not quoting the exact language of the gentleman in question, but this was its purport; and just so far as the statement is true, in that proportion is it a startling one. It seems to me as if I notice a species of reaction against this difficulty, as if the people were beginning here and there to look to the men who have given the great economical, financial, international and political questions the greatest consideration, for help on the elucidation of the great problem, how to make this land a progressive, and at the same a conservative republic. Much of the prosperity of this land has been due to the virtues of that long line of heroes, of which WASHINGTON was the first and greatest, but more even has been due to providential circumstances. Take away from us our vast extent of country, our virgin soil, our immense mineral resources, and some problems, which we fancy republican institutions settle, would have to be met here just as well as under a despotism. Whenever that day comes the politician must stand aside, and the statesman must take his place, or alas! for the land. When then on Washington's birthday in the centennial year, the people place in the prefront, as a sentiment, to be responded to, the "Colleges of the Country," they bear witness to the mighty truth, that a true republic ignores no one of the mighty forces which make up a nation's life, but as it recalls the past, and looks forward to the future, blends with the memory of patriotism and the heroism of its elder days, the hope, that honor and virtue, and faith and true intellectual vigor shall make, in the time to come, this fair land all that its sons pray that it may be."

Dr. DeKoven's remarks were most enthusiastically received, and were followed by a well executed quartette by Messrs. Jones, Hyer, Brewer and Pritchard.

Dr. Chapin, president of the Beloit College, followed with an elaborate address on the importance of the education acquired in our homes, as bearing upon the prosperity of the nation.

Broecker's band furnished music for the entertainment of the audience, while the choir were preparing for the production of a piece written by Haydn. This was given in costume, with all the musical instruments known to childhood, together with the piano, drums and other instruments, in perfect harmony. The whole was under the direction of Prof. Hyer, with Miss McClurg and Miss Ward at the piano. The other performers are named as follows: Mrs. Dr. Peck, Miss Stella White, Miss Ida Bull, Miss Kitty Cooley, Miss Cora Carr, Mrs. Geo. Singer, Mr. Philo Hoy, Miss Westcott, Miss Ida Canfield, Miss Foster.

Letters were then read from those unable to be present, and sentiments inclosed:

GOV. LUDINGTON'S LETTER.

STATE OF WISCONSIN, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
MADISON, WIS., *February 18, 1876.*

MRS. H. S. DURAND, *Racine: Madam* — I regret to say that my public duties are such that it will be impossible for me to attend the celebration of Washington's birthday, but at your request I send you the following sentiment: "The mothers of Wisconsin: may they emulate the patriotism of the women of the Revolution, and like them inspire their sons with such a loyalty to freedom and truth as shall cause their fame to grow brighter and brighter with each succeeding Centennial."

Respectfully yours,

H. LUDINGTON.

CHIEF JUSTICE RYAN'S LETTER.

SUPREME COURT, MADISON, *February 18, 1876.*

Dear Madam — I take the first moment possible to reply to the note which you

have done me the honor to write, and in compliance with your flattering suggestion, I beg leave to propose to you as a sentiment for your Centennial festival: "The women at both ends of the century, those who rocked and those who are rocking the cradle of American civilization. A good generation can come only of good mothers. Heroes and statesmen are but the brightest jewels of the matrons who bore and nurtured them; and the present hope of the nation is that the women of this day may give to the future a generation of as noble men and women as the women of that day gave to the past."

With the greatest respect, madam,

Your obedient servant,

E. G. RYAN.

Gen. Atwood, of the State Journal, was unable to be present on account of previous engagements, but proposed by letter the following sentiment:

"*Women and the Centennial.* In the aid the women are extending to the Centennial enterprise, they give renewed evidence of their patriotism, their intelligence, and their willingness to join with the men, in promoting every good work; and render more certain than ever the great truth that 'woman is the greatest and best gift of God to man.'"

Sincerely and truly yours,

DAVID ATWOOD.

Mrs. J. R. Doolittle, chairman of the Union Centennial Executive Committee of Racine, presented the following sentiment:

"The representative women of 1776 and 1876."

The following response by Mrs. Thorp, was read by Judge Doolittle:

The heroes and victories of 1776 furnish themes for the orators and artists of 1876. They stand out in bold relief, and in glowing colors upon the canvas which the receding century has unrolled to our view. The mellowing and modifying tints which furnish the lights and shadows in the grand perspective of this historic picture are the feminine elements, which are wrought into the beautiful background of the scene, and are shedding their own luster upon its prominent features. Mary and Martha Washington are remembered and honored as the mother

and wife of the greatest hero of our republic. Their womanly grace and dignity have given richness and depth to the light which plays about the brow upon which the world gazes with almost reverential awe. The heroic age of the republic has passed away. Qualities with which heroes were endowed in the olden time do not, as a rule, mark the statesmen of our period, and we look inquiringly for the higher good which the unopened records of the future contain. The surging elements of our national life are crystalizing into new forms. The great Master is giving a model for the enduring marble, and we wait to see if it bear the name of hero, or of heroine. Let us hope that the twain, each faithfully represented and both united, shall be in truth one. The voices of the present announce to us in well defined tones, that it is only through the pathways of reform and progress that we are to preserve the liberties we have inherited. A true and just standard of womanhood is the magnet that will uplift and hold to its highest level, the moral strength and power of this generation. Therefore, the logic of history points to the necessity of stronger and more positive aims in the rearing and education of women. Events, as in all the past, are the indices which will mark the highway of progress. Revolutions in thought and action will make its advancing steps easy and pleasant, until our children stand upon the heights of a broader and better civilization than is at present embraced within the scope of our prophetic vision. The representative women of 1876 are those who, through faith and labor, are patiently striving to purify our national fountains, so that every stream and rivulet that flows therefrom shall be to us a life giving power. These are the Marys and Marthas whose memories the passing years shall enshrine in the bloom of perennial youth.

Dr. P. R. Hoy then briefly spoke of what science had done. His remarks were as follows:

"What has science accomplished within the last century?" What a momentous question; the mind recoils at the thought of speaking five minutes on a subject that would require days simply to enumerate the benefits which science has conferred on the human family within the last hundred years. Not one of the numerous manufactories — the pride and bulwark of our city — could proceed one moment if all that pure science has contributed within the last century should be withdrawn. Then we should have no railways or steam engines; the day would be silent and gloomy, the night dark and cold, for we should have no gas or kerosene, no matches, stoves or furnaces. Science and art are so mixed up in every department of human knowledge, that it would be impossible to withdraw the

one without destroying the other. Science is the foundation and the roof, and art has contributed the filling to complete the beautiful fabric. In medicine and surgery, science has achieved wonderful results. Those surgical operations that were the most painful are now painless. Through the blessing of anæsthesis we can sleep, unconscious that the keen knife is piercing the most sensitive part. By sanitary means we can successfully ward off epidemics; we no longer tremble at the approach of cholera. Even croup, less than one century ago, was known as the death rattles, and at its approach all hands were palsied; death was the rule; now it is the exception. Vaccination has deprived one of the most loathsome of human diseases of its sting. This alone has added five years to the average of human life. What a triumph is this, for the last century. We have pierced the solid rock to the depth of nearly one-fourth of a mile, and lo! there gushes up a copious flow of pure water, to the delight and convenience of our citizens. The sun has not only been coaxed to paint exquisite pictures, but has been compelled to turn engraver as well. By means of the spectroscope the distant stars have been interrogated, and answered back to science the secret of their composition.

"But of all the marvelous achievements of modern science, perhaps the electric telegraph is the greatest. It is one perpetual miracle which no familiarity can render commonplace. And we are proud to know that America has justly appropriated the greatest share of the honor. The lightning is made the vehicle, not of matter, but of thought, to carry messages to the uttermost parts of the earth, thus establishing a more intimate relation between man and man, race and race, nation and nation. Who does not feel his heart swell with pride when he contemplates these trophies of human intelligence and thought? The straight jacket of ignorance, superstition and bigotry no longer cramp and cripple investigation in any department of knowledge, so that science is now freer and stronger than ever. What marvelous wonders may we not expect from the busy hands of science during the next one hundred years?"

At the conclusion of the remarks of the many gentlemen upon the stage, there followed a grand march, in procession, of the representatives of each nation upon the face of the civilized globe.

Tableau and march, under the direction of Mrs. St. George and Miss McClurg.

The closing march and tableau were very fine. The different

nations were represented by a young lady attired in appropriate costume, attended by a young gentleman;

America — leading the march of nations, was represented by Miss Laura Wild, dressed in red and white striped skirt, a blue silk overskirt and waist, dotted with stars, and a star diadem. Followed by

England — represented by Miss Kittie Duncomb, in white dress trimmed with red and white roses, a plumed helmet on her head; she was attended by H. Sanderson, appropriately dressed as an officer in her majesty's service.

Scotland — represented by Miss Hettie Case, in the beautiful suit of the Highland lassie; her attendant was Chas. Ward, who wore the Highland suit; they were well chosen to represent Scotland.

Ireland — Miss Lydia Bull; a white cashmere dress trimmed with shamrock leaves, green satin bodice, and shamrock wreath in her dark hair; W. B. Reily was her escort, with complete suit to match.

Wales — Miss Ella Foster; this suit was copied from a portrait of a Welsh maiden of "Lang Syne;" a quilted skirt with purple brocade overdress and low waist laced over a white waist, with a straw hat, made a very fine looking Welsh lassie; Mr. Jewell was her attendant.

France — Miss Kittie May, in an Alsatian peasant costume, blue skirt, red bodice, white waist, with the well known Alsatian bow on her head. Escorted by L. A. Rittmann, in full peasant dress.

Germany — Miss Flora Knapp, in a peasant suit of black, with red trimmings and white waist; very appropriately wore the wooden shoes so commonly seen in Germany. L. Hall was a jolly little German peasant, and dressed in full suit.

Switzerland — Miss Sallie Wild; a red skirt with black bodice, white waist, with usual pointed hat with red band, hair in braids; and W. Duncomb, in a corresponding suit.

Italy — Miss Nellie Smith, in striped skirt, bodice with shoulder knots, long apron, and square head-dress and veil; with L. Miller in a very nicely arranged peasant's suit.

Russia was nicely represented by Miss Kate Cooley, in red and green velvet trimmed with ermine, square green cap; escorted by M. Hill, in black fur-trimmed suit.

Scandinavia — Miss L. Daggett; a very nice suit that was almost entirely brought from Sweden; blue skirt, striped apron, red neck-handkerchief, and head-dress; and E. Furgeson, in knee-breeches, blouse, and broad hat.

Greece — Miss Ida Bull, in white underskirt, blue tunic, with Grecian border as trimming, attended by Mr. Paulsen, made one of the best representations of the evening.

Spain — Miss Ida Colvin; an elegant suit of scarlet, yellow and black lace; with Myron Knapp, as her Cavalier, with cloak and plumed hat; they made a truly Spanish-like couple.

Tableau — The Goddess of Liberty, Mrs. I. M. Hill, in proper costume, seemed looking down upon these various nations as if desirous of gathering them all under her protecting care.

The coat of arms of our state was represented by a beautifully made shield, four feet high, properly painted, with the Badger above, and Commerce and Agriculture on either side; Charles Washburn as Agriculture, and L. Elliot as Commerce, in appropriate costumes.

This closed the exercises of the evening; all returned to their homes well satisfied. More of these centennial entertainments should follow in goodly array.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Many other reünions of Centennial Clubs deserve mention, but owing to the absence of official reports must be omitted in our selections. Among these, was an assemblage at the Wisconsin State Hospital for the Insane, by the courtesy and invitation of its late lamented Superintendent, Dr. McDill. It was on one of our charming moonlight summer evenings, after a heated day, that a large company, including many distinguished visitors in the city, were borne on the swift wings of steam to this cool retreat, and received the cordial welcome and hospitalities of the Doctor and his family. The evening was passed in social enjoyment.

The second monthly reunion of the Red, White and Blue Club was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Ingman. Our young friends give us glowing descriptions of the entertainment furnished by the accomplished hostess, and this centennial party will be long remembered.

Mrs. John N. Jones, wife of the present Mayor of Madison, opened her spacious home on the Mendota ridge, on a winter's night, to receive our State and Red, White and Blue Clubs, which reunion was among the most charming gatherings of Madison's gay season.

In Beloit vigorous centennial work has been accomplished, and many public entertainments held of which we have received no reports. The 22d of December was observed there, and throughout the State, more generally than any other national anniversary. Too much cannot be said of the energy and successful centennial labors of the Beloit ladies. Whatever they have attempted, either in the line of entertainments, financial effort, or in the illustration of artistic taste and culture, they have

proven themselves eminently qualified to accomplish. Their exhibit will be an enduring evidence of their love and loyalty to each other and to their country.

We have been in frequent receipt of letters from ladies who have accepted the position of chairman in small towns, expressing regret at their inability to effect organizations, after much diligent effort to this end. With hearts alive to the interests of the enterprise, they have felt great discouragement. The earnestness and faith of these noble women have gone far to strengthen the hearts and stay up the hands of those who have been able to accomplish more by reason of better facilities.

But the spirit is one, and to all such we desire to say — your words and deeds have sustained us in our arduous work. The small sums of money you have sent us from your own purses, or as the contribution of friends who sympathise with you, have represented far more to us than their financial value. They have aided in lifting us above the depressing influences of indifference and inertia which we have too often encountered, where money and position are synonymous for self indulgence and frivolity. If we had failed to accomplish any other result, we should find abundant compensation in the fact that there are so many true, earnest women who are thoroughly awake to the influence which our centennial has and will accomplish for the higher development of woman. As prominent in the list, we are happy to make honorable mention of Mrs. Dr. Wm. Fox, of Oregon. Living in a small place she might have excused herself on the plea of limited facilities, acting as chairman, secretary and treasurer. Her words of sympathy and her quota of money were ever ready at call. We are also grateful to the following ladies, who have essentially assisted and encouraged us, and w! om we recognize as earnest coöperators:

Mrs. E. E. Phillips, Stevens Point.
Mrs. H. H. Gray, Darlington.
Mrs. P. M. Perkins, Burlington.
Mrs. Daniel Shaw, West Eau Claire.
Mrs. Dr. Du Bois, Lake Mills.
Mrs. H. Graham, Eau Claire.
Centennial Club, Jefferson.
Centennial Club, Reedsburg.
Centennial Club, Ripon.

Names of centennial organizations, with their presiding officers, will be found engraved within the Memorial Shrine.

CENTENNIAL THOUGHTS OF WOMAN.

In the progress of knowledge and Christianity has come the conviction that the province of woman's activities is as broad as the interests of humanity; that she, too, in common with man, has the world for her field, and its physical, intellectual and spiritual kingdoms for her inheritance.

Thus truth involves an active participation in all measures and movements that pertain to public or private welfare, whether of government, of church, of school, of society, or of the home.

The mischiefs that have issued from a less-enlarged view of woman's mission have been, still are, and must ever be, most disastrous. The magnitude of her work demands, first of all, the

broadest self-culture the resources of the age can offer. Woman can not value too highly her own acquisitions, for the measure of her individual strength will be the measure of the strength she will bring to the household, to society, to the state. The more woman is impressed with the worth of humanity, the more fully she accepts her new revelation — now borne in upon her by the experience of the past, and the needs of the present — the more she realizes the infinite scope of the high career to which she is now called, the more eagerly will she respond to every opportunity for the development of her powers, the more diligently will she seek for truth and growth, and the more patiently will she bring into subjection to the law of wisdom and love each wayward and frivolous impulse.

Every department of human effort needs the direct influence of intelligent womanhood, and every woman needs the discipline and general information which a participation in public affairs can alone furnish. By large individual acquirements and breadth of comprehension, woman must command that respect upon which her usefulness will depend. Fields of art, science and literature, the learned professions and all honorable callings must be familiar to her, open to her pursuit. Self-reliance and independence of character are best acquired in some noble sphere of activity which woman's special aptitudes or intellectual instincts may choose. By such practical training, her own life is greatly enriched and the world benefited; while the mental discipline, culture and self-control thus obtained are especially serviceable

to woman in the well ordering of her household, and in the performance of its holy duties.

As the ideal of a Christian home is advanced, as its far-reaching blessings are more highly appreciated, and its close relations to the community are better understood, it is more fully and clearly revealed what wealth of intellectual and spiritual power may wisely be employed in its service.

We do well to beware, lest our very reverence of home, narrowing our thoughts concerning it, narrow also our preparation for its duties. He who so prizes the bible as to read it only, will poorly understand its teachings, will miss altogether some of its far-reaching principles, and pervert others to his own moral injury.

Home must, indeed, be the center of divine beneficences; but that it may be this center, it must also gather into itself all discipline and wisdom. The moment the wife and mother allows her energies and interests to be absorbed in the family, and becomes indifferent to public measures, and to the welfare of other homes and of the no-homes, that moment deterioration commences in herself and in her household. Household selfishness is but a small remove from personal selfishness, and its retribution is as certain. We cannot forget the brotherhood of the race, and withdraw our sympathies and activities from its common well-being, and prosper in our individual or family life. Not thus can we unite ourselves to God's work in the world. Seclusion and exclusion in the home is the rock on which many families have been fatally shipwrecked.

The richest ministrations of unselfish love and unwearying patience must have the support of broad intelligence for their effectual influence. The mother's knowledge of public affairs and outside activities must deserve the respect of her sons, that her much-needed counsels in the important steps of their lives may be valued and obeyed. Affection, in a world to be guided and restrained, can never be a substitute for that knowledge that wins and holds an attentive ear. It may greatly aid the word of wisdom, it can never replace it.

The mother, above all others, is most vitally concerned in public movements. Unjust government, unrighteous social enactments, unwise school regulations, imperfect sanitary laws, each and all of them, may defeat the mother's high purposes, and bring ruin to the home, however faithfully she may have labored within its precincts for its highest perfection.

From our homes then, and in behalf of our homes — the true sources of a nation's intellectual and spiritual wealth — comes the earnest plea that woman should have a voice in the administration of national affairs.

To-day man proudly celebrates the close of *his first* Centennial of freedom. To swell his triumphs, woman brings her contributions, but brings them the more joyfully as with the eye of faith she sees the approaching inauguration of *her own* Centennial. Her inspired vision beholds the promise of the future, the glories that shall be, when humanity shall be enriched by the highest achievements, holiest aspirations, and grandest possibilities of the *whole* race. The present holds the future; that future, then,

springing from these infolding forces will be soul-satisfying and sufficient, according as the household, gathering into itself all regenerative, expansive agencies, transforms the home of the few into the heaven of the many.

All hail to this opening kingdom of enlarged powers, virtues and pleasures. EMMA C. BASCOM.

REMINISCENCE.

It is pleasant when the harvest-home is shouted and the ingathering garnered, to contemplate the labors of the season, estimate the gains and losses, and ponder the lessons of the hour, for future guidance and profit.

Thus, as the interest in our National Exhibition gathers volume from its near approach, some utterances are forced upon us, concerning the advantages accruing to woman, in consequence of her share in the work, as well as on kindred subjects affecting the well being of our sex.

When the demand came from our nation's birthplace, for all that "Science, Art and Labor could outpour, from all their myriad horns of plenty," to grace the new century's natal day, and woman was called upon for the first time in the world's history to assist in a national service, every true feminine soul in the land marked with gratitude this step of progress in her ascend-

ing scale, and many from it horoscoped the bright star of her future.

The pronounced object of the exhibition being to display to the world the material productions, manufactures and handicrafts, in which after a century's culture, each State had excelled, woman when accepting her recognition as helper, anxiously asked the question, how she should represent herself on the festal day of her country. Not where in miles of palace halls shall be arrayed,

> "Rich in model and design,
> Harvest tools and husbandry,
> Loom and wheels and engin'ry,
> Secrets of the hidden mine —
> Steel and gold and corn and wine,
> Fabric rough or fairy fine,
> Sunny tokens of the Line,
> Polar marvels and a feast
> Of wonder out of West and East."

Not in the range of material products could woman find her niche, and the problem where, and how, she should place herself before the world, brought to light the advanced ground she had almost unconsciously gained.

In the past, her departments of housewifery, in culinary arts, or the uses of the needle, were exhibited at State and County Fairs, as the only representation of the life and labors of our sex. And how loudly they spoke of toil and tedious routine! We reverence the patience and long suffering with which the pioneer mothers bore the rigors of their lot, and wonder not,

that the idea of Heaven, to many of them, was tired hands, folded on the clean white apron, after the day's tasks were done.

A better day dawns on us. Now, men and machinery compete in supplying the daily recurring wants of the body, and woman is greatly emancipated from many a domestic hardship and endurance, once her special province. While in America, in former times, rude arts and primeval life circumscribed woman's power to make the most of her mental abilities, in some other countries more silken bonds have been around her, and those degrading.

Says Geo. Wm. Curtis, in his recent lecture on "Woman of the Old Time and the New," "Yesterday is gone and to-day is come. The fretted slave of the Greek household, and the idle toy of the Chesterfield age have given place to a better idea, and we go forward with God's blessing to find the true woman in the free American homes."

Although it is only the morning of our brighter day which the new century will bring to a glorious noontide; although the night watchman on the hill top, hailing the glad light, has but just ceased his cry, already *many* women hold the arena as authors, artists and sculptors, as well as in the learned professions, and in departments of business, requiring skill and probity, while *all* who have discerned the blessed dawning, have seized the cheering promise of a higher phase of spiritual life.

We were not surprised to learn that all culinary and needle efforts, with the exception of embroideries and lace work, which

rank among the fine arts, were excluded from the National Jubilee, as unworthily representing the woman of to-day.

It was seen at once, that the high and holy office, distinctively woman's right and honor as priestess at the family altar, could not be displayed, and that a well ordered home, with the gladsome light of household loves, could never be exhibited in samples. Accordingly when the demand for a quota came to us, the daughters of Wisconsin were for a moment perplexed and troubled, but by the far-seeing prescience, added to the unbounded energy, persistent effort and cultured taste of our State Chairman, the past year, has been made among the happiest in the lives of those most closely asssociated with her, in this preparation time for the grand era.

Our organizations have been in the highest degree enjoyable, and we do not hesitate to add, profitable. Without arrogating too much, we may speak of the processes of business, the promptness in action, the continuity of purpose which have been called for in the school of our experience, as educative and eminently useful for the future.

Again, the enthusiasm enkindled, and the incentives presented by our devoted leader, have inspired many in our State to exert their best gifts in poesy and painting, and given them an impulse to high aspirations which will not rest with the occasion, but ripen into greater achievement and a full maturity. Still deeper has been an underlying current of sentiment and principle which has borne us on, and given us assurance that

our progress has been in the right direction. Our exhibits speak for themselves, and are lovingly offered by the daughters of our State as an exponent of their endeavor, as well as a memento and legacy to those who shall come after. If from this feast of the nations more is not evolved than meets the eye, then the millions of time and money expended will be wasted treasure. But from the united efforts of foreign countries and our own, to exhibit the tokens of highest civilization, all concentrating in one focal center, must flow a generous rivalry, which cannot fail to bring us a purer patriotism, more honorable and honest politics, and a truer recognition of the God of nations. And to woman, often through the ages a slave or bauble, and who sometimes in our age and land, under the increased freedom of her lot, has taken that vantage ground to bind herself with the shackles of fashion and conventional society — to her, who accepts the signs of the times, the open door of the coming century invites to her true place. Then let woman, honored by the Divine Master when in his human form, and by his first manifestation as the risen Savior, never dishonor herself by low standards, or be satisfied with criterions, obsolete in the light of to-day, of her sphere of duty and action. Let her progress be shadowed forth in this fresh spring-time, by the gentle but sure promise of perfection in the living plant, fed by Heaven's dews and warmed by its sunshine.

"So from the root springs lighter the green stalk, from thence the leaves
More aery — last, the bright consummate flower."

A. B. B.

Madison, *April 25, 1876.*